

Hafa Adai!

Senate resolution agrees with projected resources in FY 2023 budget. **PAGE 2**
COVID UPDATE: 2 hospitalized; 133 new cases. **PAGE 3**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 159

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY AUGUST 11, 2022

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Face masks optional in new school year at PSS

This incoming school year, face masks will be optional for all Public School System campuses.

However, PSS "highly encourage" its stakeholders—teachers, staff, students, and parents—to consider their personal level of risk when deciding on mask-wearing. PSS classes will start on Aug. 22, 2022.

In a memorandum on

Monday, Aug. 8, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada said that effective SY 2022-2023, the wearing of face masks will no longer be mandated. "Together as one system, we have worked hard to mitigate the COVID-19 situation in our school

communities."

He said that PSS will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation in the community and will keep everyone updated as circumstances change.

He cited several positive achievements at PSS, includ-

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SENGEBAU POETRY WINNERS RECOGNIZED

Youth Congress Speaker YuriHana DLG Sasamoto, fourth from left, is joined by House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez, far right, in presenting Youth Congress Commemorative Resolution 18-05 to Audrey Tabenas (formerly of Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, third from left) and Jill Anne Mallari (Mount Carmel School, center, right) last Aug. 1 at the House Chamber. The resolution congratulates both Tabenas and Mallari for winning their divisions in the 17th annual Valentine N. Sengebau Poetry competition in October last year as part of CNMI Humanities Month. The legislation was passed at the Youth Congress' 4th Regular Session in November last year; however, the presentation was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

YOUTH CONGRESS

102 candidates for Nov. 8 election

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Saipan Zoning Office board treasurer Cecilia R. Taitano and eight other individuals beat yesterday's deadline to file their candidacies, bringing to 102 the total number

» **Taitano, 8 others beat deadline to file candidacies**

of candidates for 48 positions that are up for grabs in the Nov. 8 general election.

The CEC board has to certify the candidates for meeting



University of Guam president Dr. Thomas W. Krise, right, awards the "Milāyan Presidenten" or The President's Award to Northern Marianas College vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie M. Eliptico at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2022.

NMC

NMC's Eliptico is awarded UOG President's Medal

Frankie M. Eliptico, who was acting president of the Northern Marianas College before the appointment of the current president, was awarded the "Milāyan Presidenten" or The President's Medal in honor of his leadership of the college during Super Typhoon Yutu and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The award, which is the highest award and given by the University of Guam presi-

See NMC on Page 4

Downward trend in fuel prices continues

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The downward trend in fuel prices in the CNMI continues, with oil companies reducing their prices by another 10 cents over the weekend.

Last Friday, Mobil Oil Marianas reduced its fuel prices by 10 cents followed by Shell Marianas, which dropped its prices early Saturday morning.

As of last weekend, regu-

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COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Inflation is expected to remain painfully high for months to come even as gas prices fall.

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ASIA

Cleanup and recovery efforts gained pace in South Korea's greater capital region as skies cleared.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

Issey Miyake, who built one of Japan's biggest fashion brands, has died. He was 84.

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Local

Senate resolution agrees with projected resources in FY 2023 budget

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Senate unanimously approved Tuesday a House of Representatives concurrent resolution, with amendments, that agrees with the projected revenues and resources of the CNMI government that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had identified as available for appropriation in fiscal year 2023 beginning Oct. 1, 2022, and ending Sept. 30, 2023.

All eight senators present voted "yes" for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 22-2. Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) was absent and excused from the session.

The concurrent resolution will go back to the House for action.

Before the voting, Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) offered amendments to

reflect Torres' revised budget proposal submitted last July to the Legislature.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) introduced Concurrent Resolution 22-2, which the full House adopted last April.

The House-passed resolution reflected only what was sub-

mitted by Torres last April and didn't reflect the additional \$3 million that was identified in the governor's revised budget submission in July.

The House's Concurrent Resolution No. 22-2 basically approves the \$101.35-million projected revenue that Torres had identified as available

for government appropriation in his initial fiscal year 2023 budget submission. Torres' revised proposed budget for fiscal year 2023 increased the net budgetary resources to \$104.35 million. The amount in the governor's budget submission is part of the \$150.41 million in gross budgetary resources projected for fiscal year 2023. Fiscal year 2023 starts on Oct. 1, 2022.

Before the Senate's adoption of the concurrent resolution, some senators and Senate legal counsel Antonette Villagomez discussed Sen. Paul A. Manglona's (Ind-Rota) offer of a floor amendment to include \$13 million in the concurrent resolution to pay the 25% pension for retirees. Manglona said the \$13 million for retirees is a top priority and should be set aside immediately.

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and

Sens. Hocog, Vinnie F. Sablan (R-Saipan), Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan), and Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) voted "no" to Manglona's amendment. Sens. Manglona, Edith E. De-Leon Guerrero (D-Saipan), and Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) voted "yes."

Before voting "no" to Manglona's amendment, Hofschneider, who spoke mostly in Chamorro, said the direction of the Senate is that they are going to work hard to find a solution to fund the 25% pension for government retirees.

Sablan said that, based on Villagomez's advice and direction of their fiscal analyst Dave Demapan, his vote is "no" to Manglona's offer for amendment.

Hocog said he is confident that the Fiscal Affairs Committee that he chairs will find a plan to ensure that the

See SENATE on Page 4

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

ABA resolution supports equality in US territories, opposes *Insular Cases*

The American Bar Association's House of Delegates passed Resolution 404 yesterday, calling for equal rights for the 3.6 million residents of U.S. territories and rejecting the *Insular Cases*, a series of racist Supreme Court decisions that broke from precedent to establish a colonial framework for governing island territories.

The resolution was co-sponsored by the New York State Bar Association, which recently established a Task Force on the U.S. territories, and the Virgin Islands Bar Association, which in recent years has advanced a number of ABA resolutions to elevate legal and policy issues facing residents of U.S. territories.

Sherry Levin Wallach, president of NYSBA, and Anthony Ciolli, past-president of the VI Bar, spoke in support of the resolution.

The resolution is timely, as civil rights groups, leaders and former judges from U.S. territories, and others press the Biden-Harris Department of Justice to join rather than oppose calls for the Supreme Court to overrule the *Insular Cases*. The Justice Department has until Aug. 29 to either support or oppose a petition in *Fitisemanu v. United States* calling on the Supreme Court to finally consider "whether the *Insular Cases* should be overruled." To date, the Justice Department has relied on some of the most

racist passages of the *Insular Cases* to argue that Congress has the power to deny birth-right citizenship to people born in U.S. territories.

"It is great to see the ABA doing its part to reject the racist *Insular Cases* and help dismantle the colonial framework they established. Today's resolution is a significant step toward addressing the ABA's own history, given that the father of the ABA, Yale Law School professor Simeon Baldwin, was one of the most prominent voices writing in support of the controversial legal theories that would become the *Insular Cases*," said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American, which advocates for the United States to address its colonies problem.

Weare also serves as co-counsel in *Fitisemanu v. United States*, along with attorneys at Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher and American Samoan attorney Charles V. Ala'ilima.

"As institutions like the ABA grapple with their role in historically contributing to America's colonies problem, the U.S. Justice Department should reassess how its actions in court continue to do so even today," Weare added.

The Supreme Court is expected to decide whether or not to reconsider the *Insular Cases* when it votes on the petition for certiorari in *Fitisemanu v. United States* this fall. (PR)



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COVID UPDATE: 2 hospitalized; 133 new cases

As of Aug. 8, 2022, there are two individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19, according to the latest update from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. issued Tuesday.

Also, from July 31 to Aug. 6, 133 additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 12,866 cases since March 28, 2020.

From this report's period of July 31 to Aug. 6, 2022, CHCC reports three new hospitalizations due to COVID-19. Based on this, it is presumed that one case has since been discharged.

Of the new cases, one was identified before July 31, 2022. Of the cases recently

Torres says they want to clarify with Muña the \$34.2M owed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Monday that they will be meeting with Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña to clarify her claim that to date, CHCC is owed \$34.2 million that the Department of Finance has yet to transfer to the corporation.

Torres said in an interview that they have given a lot to CHCC and they want to know whether it's counted toward the corporation or not. He cited the \$5 million for premium pay.

"I don't know if that's calculated into giving to CHCC," the governor said.

Torres also cited that they built a parking lot for CHCC and many other projects of value. He said they will be talking with Muña to clarify whether that's counted among the things given to CHCC, how much the administration has paid to CHCC, and if there is still money owed.

The governor said they want to discuss how to go about the MRI scan and other things, and the plan to expand the hospital's operating room.

In her letter last week to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, Muña said that Finance still owes CHCC \$34.2 million from several local appropriations, as well as allocations from the American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Muña said that lawmakers emphasized with her that CHCC needs to make a written request to Atalig's office, requesting for and following up on funding appropriated to CHCC by CNMI public laws.

In the letter, she itemized the appropriations that have a balance to date.

identified, seven were identified on July 31; 30 on Aug. 1, 2022 (one on Tinian); 20 on Aug. 2; 16 on Aug. 3; 21 on

Aug. 4, 2022 (one on Timian); 24 on Aug. 5; and 15 on Aug. 6, 2022 (one on Tinian)

The CNMI is in COVID-19

Community Level Medium.

Of the total cases identified so far, as of Aug. 6, 2022, there have been 12,732 recoveries;

96 active cases; and 38 COVID-19-related deaths.

A total of 11,789 were identified via community testing

and 1,077 via travel testing.

The next report will be around Aug. 15, 2022.
(*Saipan Tribune*)

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SALE PRICE \$18,995	SALE PRICE \$21,995	SALE PRICE \$27,995
• KBB: \$20,726 • 30,521 MILES • STK: 17P370	• KBB: \$22,157 • 54,000 MILES • STK: 18P426	• KBB: \$30,387 • 40,904 MILES • STK: 18R289
2017 KIA SPORTAGE LX	2018 MAZDA CX-5 TOURING	2010 FORD RAPTOR SVT
SALE PRICE \$18,995	SALE PRICE \$22,995	SALE PRICE \$39,995
• KBB: \$19,021 • 13,574 MILES • STK: 17P442	• KBB: \$23,263 • 63,255 MILES • STK: 18P398	• KBB: \$41,563 • 49,102 MILES • STK: 10P447

STOCK #	YEAR	MODEL	KBB	SALE PRICE	STOCK #	YEAR	MODEL	KBB	SALE PRICE
19R200	2019	MITSUBISHI MIRAGE SOLD	\$12,148	\$9,995	22M032A	2018	HONDA CIVIC EX	\$23,840	\$21,995
20R284	2020	MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4	\$14,663	\$9,995	18HS947	2018	HONDA CIVIC EX	\$23,087	\$21,995
8P456	2008	TOYOTA SIENNA LE	\$10,458	\$9,995	22M021A	2019	MAZDA6 GT SEDAN	\$29,936	\$24,995
18HS950	2018	KIA FORTE	\$17,059	\$14,995	18P452	2018	MAZDA MX5 CLUB CONVERTIBLE	\$30,257	\$27,995
18HS979	2018	KIA FORTE	\$19,205	\$14,995	18P345A	2018	HYUNDAI TUCSON LIMITED	\$30,451	\$28,995
21D019C	2017	MAZDA 3 SPORT SOLD	\$19,253	\$15,995	16P364	2016	TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5 SPORT	\$35,198	\$29,995
15P325	2015	TOYOTA CAMRY XLE	\$20,295	\$15,995	13P359	2013	TOYOTA FJ CRUISER SPORT	\$33,890	\$29,995
17P341	2018	MAZDA 6 SPORT SEDAN	\$20,769	\$16,995	20H141-E	2018	HYUNDAI GENESIS-G90	\$38,204	\$34,995
16P360	2016	MAZDA CX-5 TOURING	\$18,672	\$17,995	19P367	2019	HONDA RIDGELINE	\$47,459	\$39,995
17P365	2017	HYUNDAI TUCSON SE	\$19,752	\$17,995	10P447	2010	FORD RAPTOR	\$38,151	\$39,995
8H054E	2019	HYUNDAI KONA SE	\$21,651	\$18,995	18P478	2018	FORD EXPLORER	\$41,387	\$39,995
16P424	2016	NISSAN MAXIMA	\$27,062	\$19,995	21H096D	2021	HYUNDAI PALISADE LIMITED	\$55,838	\$39,995
18P393	2018	NISSAN ROGUE SPORT	\$22,661	\$19,995	17P347	2017	JEEP WRANGLER	\$39,134	\$49,995

2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE

**SALE PRICE
\$19,995**

• KBB: \$20,397 • 18,200 MILES • STK: 21H079A

2021 TOYOTA COROLLA LE

**SALE PRICE
\$24,995**

• KBB: \$25,509 • 20,000 MILES • STK: 21P425

2007 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 4WD

**SALE PRICE
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• KBB: \$25,887 • 113,568 MILES • STK: 7P460

2018 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL

**SALE PRICE
\$19,995**

• KBB: \$22,605 • 45,500 MILES • STK: 22M051A

2018 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE

**SALE PRICE
\$26,995**

• KBB: \$27,271 • 33,750 MILES • STK: 22M050A

2019 KIA STINGER GT2

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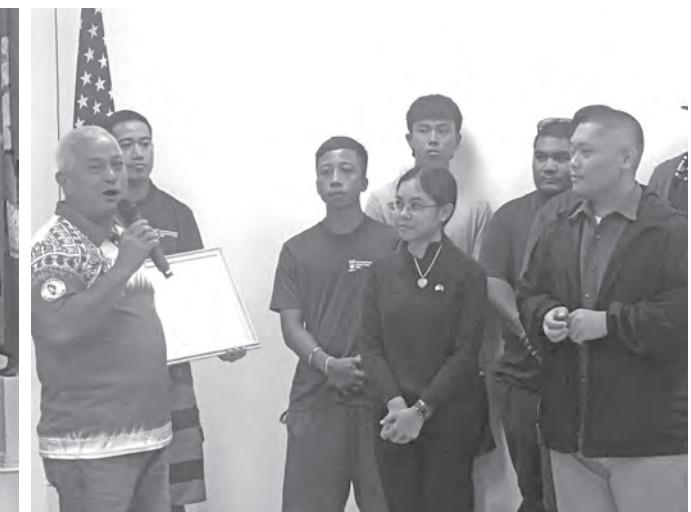
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YOUTH CONGRESS HONORS NMPMG

Youth senator Easton C. Dela Cruz (Marianas High School), together with Youth Congress Speaker YuriHana DLG Sasmoto (Mount Carmel School) presented 2022 Pacific Mini Games Organizing chair Marco T. Peter and chief executive officer Ben Babauta with Youth Congress Resolution 18-09, which commended the committee, officials, and athletes of the recently concluded Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, held from June 17 - 25 of this year in the CNMI. Dela Cruz, in his capacity as YC Education, Sports & Recreation chairman, sponsored the legislation to honor the sacrifice each person involved in the event gave in making it a success.

YOUTH CONGRESS

FUEL

From Page 1

lar fuel across Saipan dropped from \$5.71 per gallon to \$5.61. Meanwhile Mobil dropped its Supreme fuel from \$6.16 per gallon to \$6.06, while diesel went down from \$6.68 per gallon to \$6.58.

The price of fuel in the Marianas has been steadily decreasing since the start of July and as summer comes to an end, prices are expected to remain relatively low.

As of last weekend, fuel prices have dropped a total of 95 cents since the start of July.

Starting on the first week of July, the CNMI saw a series of rollback with fuel dropping from

\$6.56 per gallon of regular fuel from the beginning of the month to now at \$5.71.

The first rollback was seen on July 4, with local oil companies reducing prices by 15 cents from \$6.56 to \$6.41. Then, just 24-hours later, in the early hours of July 7, the CNMI saw the largest rollback by far when oil companies dropped their prices by 25 cents from \$6.41 to \$6.16. The third rollback of July was seen last July 14, with fuel prices dropping to \$6.01. The fourth rollback was seen last July 20 with fuel dropping another 15 cents from \$6.01 to \$5.86. Then, just six days later, on July 26 the last rollback for the month of July brought fuel down from \$5.86 to \$5.71.

A local motorist, a 23-year-old male, said that, although gas prices are still relatively high, the continuous roll back is still good news for the CNMI.

"Before the pandemic, I remember gas prices being much lower than this, especially after the summer season. However, after seeing fuel prices nearly reach \$7, \$5.61 a gallon is a steal," he said.

Another motorist hopes that fuel prices will only continue to get lower, for the sake of the cost of utilities.

"CUC bills are getting ridiculous because of these fuel prices and my only hope is that the fuel prices continue to decrease so our power bills can go back to normal. That's all I hope for," she said.

munity Level Medium, the wearing of face masks is now optional for all employees and students while on PSS premises until further notice. "However, we highly encourage our stakeholders to consider their personal level of risk when deciding on mask-wearing."

He assured that PSS will continue to revisit its health protocols and make decisions in the best interest of students. (*Saipan Tribune*)

FACE

From Page 1

ing the system's high vaccination rate against COVID-19. "Last school year, we launched a strong vaccination campaign and we are pleased to report that all our schools and departments are now at a 90%-plus vaccination rate. In collaboration with our local health partners, we were able

to open up opportunities for testing and vaccination at our school sites and Central Office on a quarterly basis. We have four school nurses and 15 school monitoring and outreach specialists on board and have the necessary equipment and resources to directly assist with mitigating the spread of COVID-19 on campus."

With the latest update from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. indicating that the CNMI is in Com-

sue our community," she said. Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol said that, aside from Taitano, Juanita Masga Mendiola filed her candidacy for a seat in the Tinian Municipal Council.

Igitol said seven others filed for a House and Municipal Council seats before the 4:30pm deadline.

The Republican Party has 31 candidates, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan, who are running for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively.

The NMI Democratic Party has 12 candidates, including Reps. Christina E. Sablan and Leila F. Staffler, who are seeking for governor and lieutenant governor positions, respectively. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is seeking his eighth term as delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives under the Democratic Party. He is running unopposed again.

The remaining candidates are running either independent and non-partisans.

CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona and Superior Court associate judges Joseph James Norita Camacho and Wesley M. Bogdan, who are up for retention on the bench, are considered non-partisans.

Edward Manibusan is seeking his third term as CNMI attorney general. Former Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama is challenging Manibusan's candidacy. The AG position is non-partisan.

The other non-partisans candidates are those running for municipal council and Board of Educa-

NMC

From Page 1

dent to individuals outside the university, also recognized Eliptico's role in helping secure millions in grants to help rebuild NMC's campus.

UOG president Dr. Thomas W. Krise presented the award to Eliptico at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022, in an event that was also attended by NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, NMC board of regents chair Charles V. Cepeda, UOG dean of College of Natural and Applied Sciences Dr. Lee Yudin, Rotary Club president Wendell Posadas, and other Rotarians.

In his presentation of the medal, Krise commended Eliptico's leadership of the college. "Frankie has really done a remarkable job in his role as interim president," Krise said. "He's been a terrific partner for all of us during this time."

Krise also mentioned how Eliptico was able to secure millions in grants to help rebuild the college's campus. He also praised Eliptico's leadership in helping to lead an increase in NMC student enrollment even when many other colleges saw an enrollment decline, especially during the pandemic.

"Frankie is a super-connector," Krise said. "If you want to get anything done, talk to him and he'll know people, and he'll be happy to connect you with them."

Krise also said Eliptico was instrumental in the strengthening of the partnership between NMC and UOG.

"This is such a great honor to be recognized by the University of Guam," Eliptico said. "It was something that I was not expecting at all. And to have it presented at the Rotary Club meeting was very special. Nonetheless, I am very thankful for Dr. Krise's presentation and his team's partnership. I am also thankful to the team at Northern Marianas College for their support and commitment to the recovery, rebuilding, and forward momentum efforts that the college has embarked on."

Eliptico is currently vice president for Administration and Advancement at NMC.

The Milayan Presidenten is awarded to individuals who share the spirit of the mission of the University of Guam: Ina, Deskübre, and Setbe (Shine, Discover, and Serve). President's Medals are a means to recognize service and showcase the role service has in creating vibrant communities in Guam, the rest of Micronesia, and beyond. Service can take many forms: sharing one's expertise, indigenous knowledge, organizational skills, outreach abilities, outstanding personal or professional endeavors that complement the University's mission, or other ways individuals make positive impacts through service. (PR)

ELECTION

From Page 1

papers to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol at the CEC office in Susupe at 3pm.

Taitano was accompanied by Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan, some Republican candidates and officials, family members, and supporters.

Taitano is also currently the Carolinian Affairs Office acting executive assistant, Office of the Governor's public liaison officer, and president of the Commonwealth Women's Association.

Taitano in an interview said her motivation and passion is still the same—to continue to serve the people to the best of her ability.

"My biggest platform is sustainable development, breaking any barriers to come between our people's progress and our people's betterment. So with that, I'm running to

SENATE

From Page 2

25% pension of the retirees will be looked into.

Hocog said they can look into that payment for 25% pension during the deliberation of the budget process.

In offering his amendments, Manglona said if they put \$13 million in the concurrent resolution, that would lower the subtotal on item seven to \$33,041,123 and also lower the total revenue and resources available under item 13 to \$91,374,365, and thus the grand total on the House Concurrent Resolution, Senate Draft 1, will be \$96,782,265.

When asked if Manglona's amendments is allowable under the concurrent resolution, Villagomez said the House concurrent resolution basically is a resolution to approve the revenues of the Commonwealth and also to identify the funds that are going to be available

for appropriation.

"That responsibility falls under the governor. ... Only the governor can identify the revenue of the Commonwealth," Villagomez said.

She said in this House concurrent resolution, all these numbers are based on the governor's identification in his budget proposal that was submitted to the Legislature last April 1, and then as amended.

Villagomez said the current proposal to amend the House concurrent will affect all the final numbers that are going to be available for appropriation.

She said the bottom line right now is \$109 million, so if Manglona's offer for amendment is adopted, it will change the amount, or minus \$13 million.

Villagomez said then the entire budget will be distorted and the governor will have to start all over again, or the House and the Senate will start all over again to figure out where to cut that \$13 million.

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Atalig, Castro oppose Mafnas' motion for TRO, preliminary injunction

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finance Secretary David Atalig and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' chief of staff, William Castro, are opposing the motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction being sought by Division of Customs director Jose Mafnas, saying Mafnas is not likely to succeed on the merits of the case.

According to the opposition filed by assistant attorney general Leslie Healer on behalf of the two, Mafnas should not be granted a TRO and preliminary injunction because he has not carried his burden for a preliminary injunction.

"He has not made even a threshold showing that he is likely to succeed on the merits, and he has not shown

that irreparable harm is likely without an injunction, that the balance of equities tips in his favor, or that an injunction is in the public interest. A preliminary injunction would be inappropriate at this juncture," she said.

Healer argues that Mafnas is not entitled to the relief he is seeking because he simply has made no showing that he is likely to succeed on the merits of the alleged violations of his constitutional rights.

"Plaintiff's contention that his constitutional rights of due process and freedom of speech and assembly were violated is not supported by the evidence. The evidence instead shows that plaintiff received a memorandum on July 21, 2022, informing him of a reassignment. DOF did not deprive plaintiff of due process, because DOF fol-

lowed proper procedures to effectuate that reassignment. In addition, DOF did not deprive plaintiff of his right to freedom of speech because there is no evidence that plaintiff's reassignment was politically motivated," she said.

"In addition, plaintiff has provided no evidence that the reassignment will cause him irreparable harm, as the reassignment would retain plaintiff in the same salary and civil service status as his prior position. Plaintiff has not only failed to show that he warrants an extraordinary remedy at the outset of this litigation, but he waived any due process that he could have received through the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. Additionally, the public interest factor and balance of equities is firmly in the

Commonwealth's favor. The people of the Commonwealth have an interest in the effective enforcement of validly enacted laws," Healer said.

Healer further argued that Mafnas has no likelihood of success on the merits because his claims are not "ripe," meaning Mafnas has not exhausted all administrative remedies available to him before pursuing a lawsuit.

"Plaintiff has failed to meet the elements for First Amendment claims; plaintiff has failed to exhaust the administrative remedies available to him; and plaintiff has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted because the reassignment was consistent with Commonwealth law," the lawyer said.

The defense attorney went on to say that Mafnas will not

suffer irreparable harm if an injunction is not granted, as opposed to the defendants who will suffer significant harm in the face of a TRO or injunction as it will hinder the Commonwealth's ability to enforce properly enacted laws pursuant to its police powers and deprive the Commonwealth of the expertise necessary for the new division under the Department of Commerce.

"The public interest also falls decidedly against granting a temporary injunction because the public has an interest in the enforcement of Commonwealth laws, and in allowing individuals that either willfully or negligently avoid long established laws to paralyze the government

by filing lawsuits. The public interest is squarely in favor of ensuring that individuals that have been afforded due process to take responsibility for their conduct and ensuring that proper procedures are followed," she said.

According to court documents, Mafnas filed his lawsuit against the Department of Finance, its secretary, and Castro last July 28. Aside from the lawsuit, Mafnas also filed

a motion for a TRO and preliminary injunction to essentially prohibit Atalig or Castro from reassigning him pending judgment.

On Aug. 2, 2022, the court granted Mafnas' motion for TRO effective through Aug. 16.

Wanted: Patricia B. Aldan

The Department of Public Safety is hunting for Patricia Bermudes Aldan, who is wanted in connection with the theft of \$46,000 from the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Committee.



amount was changed from \$27.00 to \$46,027.00 with two signatures of its committee members signed on the forged check without their knowledge.

On the same day, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho signed an arrest warrant for Aldan, but the police were unable to find her. On Aug. 3, 2022, police were able to confirm that Aldan had fled the island in the afternoon of Aug. 2, 2022, on Jeju Airlines with no written final destination.

This case remains ongoing. (PR)

Lizama files candidacy for CNMI AG

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama filed yesterday afternoon his candidacy for an elected CNMI attorney general in the Nov. 8 general election.

Lizama will challenge at the polls former Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan, who is seeking his third four-year term as an elected AG.

Accompanied by members of a committee to elect, Lizama submitted his candidacy documents before Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igital at the CEC office.

Lizama said the CNMI has

a lot of potentials and that he is looking at it on the positive side.

"I think we can do a lot here," said the former judge, adding that it's the AG's inherent responsibility to look into all aspects of civil rights, employment rights, and workers' rights.

He said he sees a lot of issues coming up, especially with conservative decisions such as the U.S. Supreme Court's decision that upheld Roe v. Wade.

In the Roe v. Wade case, the U.S. Supreme Court issued in 1973 a landmark ruling that the U.S. Constitution conferred the right to have an abortion.

Last June, the U.S. Su-

preme Court reversed the Roe v. Wade decision, declaring that the constitutional right to abortion no longer exists.

"I think we need to be, you know, more in tune with those issues. Not just...being aloof about the issues," Lizama said. "What happens if there's an emergency situation, somebody has to go to the hospital and has to have an abortion? What is going to happen?"

Lizama said there's always that possibility that nobody would entertain that because of fear that they're going to be prosecuted.

He said he's surprised with Manibusan running for a third term, because most states or most jurisdictions only have

two terms for an elected AG. Lizama said it's due time that the CNMI requires the AG to have only two terms, for a total of eight years.

Lizama said Manibusan is a "good guy" and that he is not going to talk about why he is running against him.

"It's just more [about] what I can do..." he said.

In 2008, Lizama retired after serving 10 years as a Superior Court associate judge. He was the first judge to be retained on the bench in the CNMI.

Manibusan, who is the CNMI's first elected AG, filed his candidacy for re-election Monday. At the general election in November 2018, he ran unopposed for his second term and obtained over 11,000 votes.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD22-ITB No.: 42200139

SUBMISSION DATE: September 07, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Procurement of Services for Removal, Packaging, Containment, and Shipping of E-Waste Materials collected at the Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION, LOWER BASE TRANSFER STATION, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **August 04, 2022** at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the **Scope of Work at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station required for each set.**

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 23, 2022**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division Conference Room, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 30, 2022** to Mr. Blas T. Mafnas, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-2762. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Deolie Dalag : FCD-DI
Tanjusay : CIVIL ACTION NO.
Petitioner, vs. 21-0527-FCD
Flora Mia : SUMMONS FOR
Canapi Badua : PUBLICATION
Respondent.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 700 BOX 10000 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 29th day of December, 2021.

/s/
CLERK OF COURT

Name: Antonio G. Lloren
Address: P.O. Box 505580
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670)285-4122
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ANTONIO G. LLOREN : FCD-DI
Petitioner, vs. NO. 21-0138
ANGELA P. LLOREN : SUMMONS
Respondent,

TO: ANGELA P. LLOREN

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to ANTONIO G. LLOREN whose address is P.O. Box 505580, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 12th day of April 2021.

/s/
Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
JCT Bldg. Unit 6, Satto St. Susupe • P.O. Box 502179 Saipan, MP 96950-2179
T: (670) 235-9820 • (670) 236-9820 • E: cmnlaw@nmijudiciary.com • W: cmnlaw.gov

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB2022-LRC-01

PUBLICATION DATE: August 10, 2022, Time: 10:00 A.M., Chamorro Standard Time

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) MIDSIZE SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE WWW.CMNLAW.GOV WEBSITE. DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION FOR BIDS WILL BE ON AUGUST 12, 2022

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. ALBERT HICKING VIA EMAIL AT albert.hicking@nmijudiciary.com.

SOLICITATION IS MADE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISION OF THE NMJ JUDICIARY RULES OF PROCUREMENT RULE 12 AND RULE 18.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR PORTIONS THEREOF AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALBERT A. HICKING
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/S/ MARTHA M. STANDISH
ACTING PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

ITB22-CHCC/THC/RHC-016A

"ADDENDUM"

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 23RD, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"LEASE OF PROVIDER'S HOUSING FOR TINIAN HEALTH CENTER-THC AND ROTA HEALTH CENTER-RHC"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Deputy Secretary Sherman says US ‘doubling down’ on Pacific

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The United States is doubling down on its investment in the Pacific, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman said Tuesday as she concluded a five-nation visit to the region where China has been making inroads.

“The future will be written here in the Pacific,” Sherman

said at an agreement-signing event in New Zealand’s capital, Wellington.

Critics have accused the U.S. of neglecting the region and allowing China’s influence to flourish.

The Solomon Islands in April signed a security pact with China in a move that has alarmed many in the Pa-

cific who fear it could lead to a military buildup. The U.S. earlier this year announced plans to reopen an embassy in the Solomons, where on Sunday Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare skipped a service commemorating the Battle of Guadalcanal that Sherman she and other dignitaries attended.

Sherman said the U.S. has always been a Pacific nation. She said it has been a priority for President Joe Biden to rebuild alliances and relationships around the world, and officials were using “every vehicle possible” to collaborate with Pacific partners.

“And so we are doubling down on our investment here

in the Pacific,” Sherman said. “Our relationships, our partnerships, regional organizations.”

Asked if she felt the U.S. or China was winning the battle for influence in the region, Sherman said she didn’t see it quite that way.

“It’s not so much a battle,” she said. “I think that countries

try to have relations with every country they believe will help them move forward. And the United States does not ask any country to choose between us and China, or any other country and China.”

She said the U.S. wanted a level playing field and respect for the rules-based international order that was put in place after World War II, a system that had helped China rise and which ought to benefit all nations.

Sherman said she had discussed China among a number of topics in a meeting with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

Sherman signed agreements to collaborate more closely with New Zealand on space missions and emergency management. It was the final stop on a trip that had taken her to Samoa, Tonga, the Solomon Islands and Australia.

Sherman spoke more about the decision of the Solomons’ prime minister to stay away from Sunday’s Guadalcanal commemoration.

“I told him I was sorry for him because I thought he missed an opportunity to raise up that strong partnership and the fight for freedom that allowed the Solomon Islands to exist as it is today,” she said.

Church donates 124 wheelchairs to Palau hospital



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elder & Sister Green, Koror branch president EJ Ozu, Palau’s Minister of Health, Gaafar Uherbelau, William H.K. Davis, and Ernest Simer pose with some of the donated wheelchairs.

The Koror branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints donated 124 wheelchairs to Palau last July 12, with the donations coursing through the Belau National Hospital.

Darnelle Worswick, the hospital administrator, received the donation in a ceremony that was also attended by the church’s Koror branch president, EJ Ozu, and Palau’s Minister of Health Gaafar Uherbelau.

Among the recipients of the first wheelchair was Ernest Simer, whose wife, Wilma B. Ernest, was on hand to receive the donated wheelchair on his behalf.

Ozu said their church is full of gratitude “that we can help the people of Palau and to provide a service for them. . . . There are a lot of needs, and we are truly grateful for the opportunity to serve.”

William H.K. Davis, the church’s area authority and humanitarian director, said the donation was made possible by the generous donations of members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including

its members in Palau. “We are so happy to be right here in Palau and to provide this service, especially to some of our most vulnerable people in the community,” he added.

US Virgin Islands creates park system, adds 30 properties

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—The U.S. Virgin Islands on Tuesday created a new territorial parks system that protects more than 30 areas from commercial development and reserves them for activities including hiking and beaching.

Properties that total hundreds of acres were identified in St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas, including Great Salt Pond, Oppenheimer Beach, Cas Cay and Bovoni Cay.

Gov. Albert Bryan also signed legislation that revises a trust fund board whose seven members will be responsible for managing and

acquiring land.

The government also expects to implement a Maroon sanctuary zone in St. Croix’s West End to honor the legacy of Caribbean descendants of West African slaves who escaped slavery using guerrilla warfare. The area is home to Maroon Ridge, which served as a refuge for runaway slaves.

“Given growing concerns regarding beach access, environmental degradation and the loss of significant historic and other sensitive sites, all those involved in advancing this measure should be proud,” said U.S. Virgin Islands Sen. Samuel Carrión.

In accepting the donation, Uherbelau said: “On behalf of the ministry and all of the staff as well as the departments that will receive these wheelchairs, we really want to thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and, of course, the people of Palau. It is a very challenging and difficult time, so to be receiving this donation has a very impactful effect on the community....”

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION			
Municipality of Tinian and Aguijan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands			
PUBLIC NOTICE			
Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.			
AGENDA			
I. PRELIMINARY a. Call to Order b. Roll Call c. Adoption of Agenda d. Adoption of Minutes 1) July 26, 2022 – Regular Meeting 2) August 9, 2022 – Special Meeting			
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ¹			
III. REPORTS a. Chair’s Report b. Executive Director’s Report			
IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS a. Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino			
V. NEW BUSINESS a. Adoption of Employment Contract (Executive Director) b. Licensing Matters 1) Casino License a. Alter City Group, Inc.			
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION ²			
VII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS			
VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS			
IX. ADJOURNMENT			

¹Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

The Belau Hospital is the only national hospital in Palau and serves all citizens on the island (18,092 people) by providing primary healthcare, emergency care, surgery, inpatient, pediatric, and outpatient services.

The donation came about after the church’s humanitarian specialists met with Worswick in August 2021, to inquire what the hospital’s needs were. A proposal was submitted to donate a 20-foot container of 124 wheelchairs to the hospital. Each chair is embroidered with the logo “Donated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints” on the back.

To accommodate the weather and conditions in Palau, each wheelchair was ordered with composite spokes that will not rust, tubeless tires that will not go flat, and a seat cushion for comfort.

The wheelchairs will support inpatients and outpatients in the hospital, clinics in the area, and will be provided to needy patients in the community because of disabilities caused by non-communicable diseases such as diabetes. After much time and effort, the wheelchairs have arrived and are now ready to be distributed to those in need by the hospital.

Dr. Sylvia Osarch, a geriatrician with Belau National Hospital who has worked there for over 20 years, said the wheelchairs and any kind of donations “are very important. The wheelchair is important because there are homebound who have no way of coming into the hospital so the wheelchairs will benefit us greatly, as well as those who can still do things on their own around the house who we can give a wheelchair to. I look to benefit the quality of life for the elderly, so, thank you for the wheelchairs.” (PR)

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION: PROGRAM AIDE
PAY-LEVEL: P.L. 22 / STEP 1-10
REPORTS TO: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:

This is a non-exempt position responsible for the day-to-day administrative functions of the office and its programs. The Program Aide reports to the Executive Director and works within prescribed NMPASI standards, policies and procedures.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ At least a High School Diploma or its equivalence including a GED and other similar certificates;
- ✓ Must be proficient in computer usage including but not limited to word processing and spreadsheet applications;
- ✓ Must possess a valid CNMI driver’s license; and
- ✓ Must be able to operate various office equipment including but not limited to telephones, faxes, and copier machines.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a **Cover Letter**, (2) a **Resumé**, (3) **Completed Application forms**. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact **Mr. Gregory Borja** at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / (670) 287-0652 [message] or email at gborja@nmpasi.org. NMPASI is an EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

Deadline to submit applications will be on August 19, 2022 at 4pm

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 159

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Have we reached the end of the doomscroll?

Digital platforms are having a bad year. That might be good news for America's mental health. The negative headlines keep coming, mostly driven by disappointing quarterly earnings calls. Last Wednesday, Facebook parent company Meta reported the first quarterly drop in revenue since the company went public in 2012. Profit is down 36% over last year. Netflix lost almost a million subscribers between April and July, marking two quarters in a row of audience decline. Amazon, which thrived while we were all stuck at home ordering toilet paper online, reported a net loss for the second straight quarter. And Apple, the company that connects 113 million Americans to digital tools, saw profits drop 11%.

Those declines are the result of a complex web of factors. Among them, Meta has suffered from Apple's privacy update that allowed users to stop vendors from tracking activity across other apps. Netflix is in an unsustainable content war with other streaming services, spending billions producing what they hope will be the next bingeable show, even as viewers are hitting their limit on how many streaming platforms they can pay for at once. Amazon blamed inflation for its woes.

But one other factor might be at play: More people getting off the couch and living IRL, as the kids say. (That's "in real life" for those of you not on TikTok.)

According to a Pew Research Center survey conducted in January, Americans have lost most of their guardedness about getting out and about. When compared to a year ago, the percentage of Americans who say they are comfortable doing "real world" things has grown dramatically: Eating at a restaurant (70%, up from 44%), visiting friends inside their home (85%, up from 65%), attending an indoor sporting event or concert (43%, up from 19%).

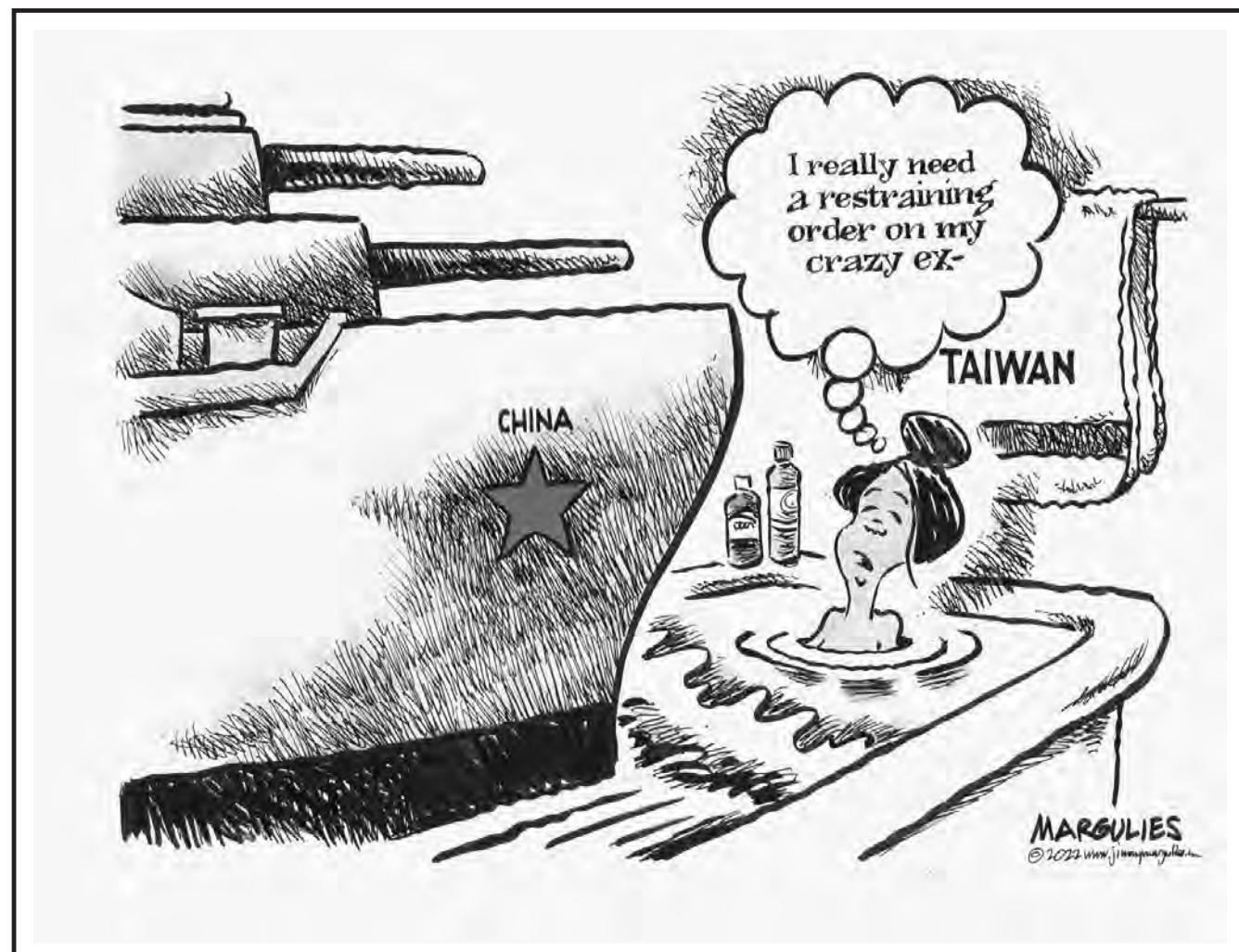
And Americans are roving even farther away from the couch than the neighborhood restaurant. On June 26, the Transportation Security Administration screened nearly 2.5 million people at airport checkpoints, the highest volume since Feb. 11, 2020. The rush has overwhelmed airlines, leading to canceled flights and delays.

Experts say all that time IRL is good for us. Research has connected social media use with decreased, disrupted and delayed sleep, which is associated with depression, memory loss and poor academic performance.

By contrast, the best activities we can engage in for our mental health are exercise, human connection, exploration and being outside — all things undermined by always-on-the-internet culture.

It's too simplistic to say Facebook and Netflix earnings are suffering because people are choosing in-person activities more often, but we can dream. The more we Americans can interrupt our pandemic-habitualized doomscrolling, and breathe fresh (though hot) air, the healthier our nation will be.

© The Dallas Morning News



Who are you calling a 'fascist'—and do you even know what it means?

Americans know little history and what little they know they forget. Ask college students who won the Civil War or ask adults when the U.S. Constitution was ratified or whom the U.S. fought in World War II and shocking numbers will have no idea.

That's one reason we should be careful about throwing around historical allusions and parallels.

Here are two cases in point: the words "fascist" and "un-American." Both are bandied about with easy promiscuity, but both date back to particular moments in history and carry very specific meanings and connotations.

The many uses to which the word "fascist" is put these days are staggering. Bill O'Reilly called the ACLU fascist. Glenn Beck called Joe Biden a fascist. Barack Obama allegedly called Donald Trump a fascist, while Trump insists it's "the new far-left" that is fascist. Vladimir Putin calls Ukraine's government fascist, but a former CIA director says that no, it's Putin who's a fascist.

Do they know what they're talking about?

Or does Gina Viola? Viola, an activist-turned-candidate who ran fourth in the Los Angeles mayoral primary in June, recently denounced City Council candidates Sam Yebri and Traci Park as "full-blown fascists" on Twitter, apparently because they support funding the Los Angeles Police Department at past levels.

Not just would-be-fascists or neo-fascists or fascist-adjacent. They're full-blown fascists, presumably in the genocidal Hitler-and-Mussolini mold.

Nor did Viola back down when called out. "I equate growing an over-bloated, over-militarized LAPD, and those who support that, with fascism," she told the Jewish Journal.

That's ridiculous. People who believe cities need cops are not fascists.

Fascism—actual fascism—is identified most commonly with Benito Mussolini's Italy. It is also used to describe Hitler's Germany and Franco's Spain, among others.

It is characterized by militarism and nationalism, usually with a strong dictatorial leader benefiting from a cult of personality. Fascist regimes are often prejudiced against marginalized groups. Their leaders reject liberal democracy, tend to emphasize social and economic control and are generally not averse to the use of violence.

What does that have to do with Sam Yebri and Traci Park? Absolutely nothing. But in Viola's defense, she's not the first to

By NICHOLAS GOLDBERG
Los Angeles Times

Nicholas Goldberg is an associate editor and op-ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



misuse the epithet. Accusations of fascism have been unfairly hurled for many years. In his 1944 essay "What is fascism?" British journalist, novelist and critic George Orwell wrote:

"I have heard it applied to farmers, shopkeepers, social credit, corporal punishment, fox-hunting, bull-fighting, the 1922 committee, the 1941 committee, Kipling, Gandhi, Chiang Kai-Shek, homosexuality, Priestly's broadcasts, Youth Hostels, astrology, women, dogs and I don't know what else."

The word, he concluded was "much-abused" and had become "almost entirely meaningless," except insofar as it meant "something not desirable."

So what's the big deal if we toss it around carelessly? Only that, as Orwell understood, words matter. "The slovenliness of our language makes it easier for us to have foolish thoughts," he wrote.

Fascism was a terrifying totalitarian movement that plunged the world into an era of near-cataclysmic violence.

These days, when we face authoritarian, anti-democratic threats to our own institutions—threats like Trump, not the ACLU, to be clear—it's not surprising that we reach for harsh language to convey the gravity of our situation and the depth of our anger.

But imprecision, hyperbole, false comparisons and empty words can be dangerous. They oversimplify and trivialize; they desensitize us to nuance.

After all, what will we say—how will we describe it—when the situation gets even worse? And, unfortunately, it can get worse.

Which brings me to the word "un-American," which I heard on Beyoncé's new album.

Now I'm not exactly sure what she's trying to say when she sings about "my un-American life," but I do know that this is a word with a clear and precise provenance. It dates to the Cold

See FASCIST on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Where is the money?

I encourage Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to make an effort to understand the issues affecting Medicaid and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. There is no excuse for why his administration has kept the CNMI Medicaid Agency and CHCC in the dark for months about how and when the local match would come. There is no excuse for Gov. Torres' total lack of urgency.

The administration has known about Medicaid's need for the \$5 million local match since at least March, when the new U.S. Treasury rule barring the use of ARPA funds for the Medicaid local match was released. The administration has also known about the disastrous consequences of failing to meet the local match. In May, with no solutions in sight, the CNMI Medicaid Agency wrote to the Legislature for help. I inquired with the Secretary of Finance about the status of the local match for Medicaid at the budget hearing in June, then called a Health and Welfare hearing with Medicaid and CHCC in July when it became apparent that the issue had not yet been resolved. The sense of crisis was abundantly clear to all of us.

Three major takeaways from the FBI search on Trump's home

Based on what we know, there are three major legal takeaways from the FBI's search of Donald Trump's Florida home on Monday.

First, this is a big deal, historically and constitutionally speaking. As far as I can tell, a criminal search warrant has never been executed against a former president.

Second, from the perspective of criminal investigation, the surprise raid was a highly unusual, aggressive step. In almost all criminal investigations of nonviolent conduct, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Justice would have requested cooperation from the defendant's lawyers, not surprised the defendant and broken into his safe.

And third, despite the drama, executing the search warrant is far from a guarantee that any criminal action will be taken. In fact, there is some reason to think that the public raid will take some of the heat off Attorney General Merrick Garland, whom President Joe Biden has been urging to act against Trump—without forcing him into a prosecution decision he has strong reason to avoid.

Start with history. Other former presidents have been in trouble. But they managed to avoid criminal prosecution, and that includes, it would appear, being made subject to a search warrant.

Richard Nixon never handed over missing portions of the Watergate tapes. But he was pardoned by President Gerald Ford, rendering that investigation effectively inoperative. Aaron Burr was a former vice president when he was arrested and criminally charged with treason in 1807. That's probably the closest we've come to the current scenario.

The constitutional significance of this step in the criminal investigation of Trump is that a sitting administration must be extremely cautious and thoughtful about prosecuting the predecessor president. True, under the Constitution, no one is above the law, as the Supreme Court has repeatedly emphasized. Yet the fact that the power to prosecute criminally rests with the executive branch, not an independent prosecutor, means it is up to the sitting president to make sure our system doesn't devolve into a series of retaliatory prosecutions of former government officials.

Think of it this way: If it became at all normal for the administration of a new president to prosecute the one who came before him, it would be difficult to avoid a tit-for-tat repetition each time the president came from a different party. You can see this danger in the immediate calls by Republicans to investigate Garland.

Few things could be more disruptive to constitutional democracy than the use of the presidency to seek criminal charges against former presidents. The pragmatic reality underlying a rights-based constitutional system is that the party in power must remember that it, too, will be out of power someday. It therefore must respect the rights of the party that came before, not just out of principle, but out of the practical realization that the whole system will collapse unless both sides follow the rules of respecting each other.

This reality naturally leads to the question of why the FBI and Justice Department took this very aggressive step against Trump. Obviously, if a former president has com-

After the Health and Welfare hearing, I requested a meeting with the Secretary of Finance. He did not respond. Ways and Means chairman Donald Manglona and I then wrote a joint letter to the governor proposing solutions and urging him to take action. The governor also did not respond. But a few days later, with mere weeks to go before the end of the fiscal year, we received word that the administration had finally transferred the \$5 million needed and Medicaid can now begin drawing down funds to pay providers and vendors. Where the money actually came from is a subject for further inquiry by the Legislature.

It's a little late in the game for the governor to be telling the public that Medicaid was "never" in jeopardy, let alone lecturing lawmakers—and by extension the agencies that came to us for help—about "misinformation."

I urge Governor Torres to make healthcare a priority. Talk to the people at Medicaid, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the patients who depend on Medicaid and CHCC for care. Communication goes a long way to assure people that they

mitted serious crimes, that breaks the norms and provides reason to investigate.

But no rational prosecutor could think it was a good idea to prosecute a former president unless he could easily be convicted of something serious. An acquittal would be bad for the rule of law because it would suggest retrospectively that the prosecution had been illegitimate or political. Even a conviction on a relatively trivial charge would look politically motivated.

Here a puzzle must be acknowledged. Getting a conviction against Trump on a charge of retaining classified documents would seem to be very tricky.

He could claim that, as president, he declassified the documents—an act that would have been within his power to do while in office. Then taking them would not have been a crime. Even if somehow this defense could be overcome, the offense doesn't seem egregious enough to bring charges against a former president who is still eligible to run for the presidency again.

The puzzle, then, is why the search warrant was executed. Either prosecutors are seriously considering a documents-based charge; or they were worried the classified documents were vulnerable to exploitation in Trump's safe; or some other investigation is going on that we don't know about; or some other motivation is in play.

Before executing a search warrant against a former president, FBI and Justice Department officials would have to seek approval at the highest levels. It seems almost inconceivable that Garland would not have been consulted. That means the decision to up the ante so drastically and publicly in the Trump criminal investigation was considered, not to say calculated.

In a normal white-collar criminal case, defense lawyers would be outraged by the execution of the search warrant against their client. By executing it, the prosecutors would be sending a message that they were treating the defendant with a high degree of contemptuous suspicion, and certainly not anticipating collegial plea negotiations. It would ordinarily be read as a sign of great confidence on the part of the prosecutors that they were going to be able to bring charges.

For Garland's Justice Department, however, the public nature of the raid arguably functions a little differently. Garland has had to deal with Biden's public frustration with the pace of the investigation. Now, after this raid, neither the president nor the Democratic base can complain that the investigation is not being taken seriously.

Coupled with this benefit to the Justice Department is that executing the warrant doesn't require any subsequent decision to prosecute—no matter what was found. The attorney general enjoys full prosecutorial discretion.

So don't assume that this raid means the federal government will prosecute Trump. The odds still remain low of any such criminal prosecution.

The risks associated with Trump's reaction are still very great. A prosecution could backfire in numerous ways, including by giving Trump greater incentive to run for office and win in order to fend off the prosecution or its consequences.

Garland knows all this, and remains committed, I believe, to reestablishing the rule of law and the non-political nature

By **CHRISTINA 'TINA' SABLAR**

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



Rep. Tina Sablan represents Precinct 2 in the 22nd Legislature and chairs the Health and Welfare Committee of the House of Representatives.

won't be losing life-saving benefits. We are still waiting to hear what happened with the \$34 million owed CHCC since 2018. This includes millions in local appropriations approved by the Legislature and signed into law, as well as tens of millions in federal ARPA allocations promised to CHCC for hospital operations, medical referral, and an MRI unit that is so badly needed here. Where is the money?

By **NOAH FELDMAN**

Bloomberg Opinion



Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of *The Broken Constitution: Lincoln, Slavery and the Refounding of America*.

of federal criminal investigation and prosecution. He is an extraordinarily difficult position. Searching Trump's Florida house may simply have been part of making sure no stone was left unturned in the investigation, even if no charges are ever brought against Trump.

FASCIST

From Page 8

War when the infamous House Un-American Activities Committee—or HUAC—led what became a nationwide attack on communists, undesirable radicals and so-called subversives.

In the 1940s and '50s, the word was wielded by the right against not just Soviet spies and people plotting to overthrow the government, but also against people deemed disloyal for their beliefs, writings and speeches.

Among those caught up in the hysteria were Jewish socialists and Italian American anarchists and African American civil rights activists—people, in other words, whom it was not that difficult to paint as as somehow less than authentically American.

Some were blacklisted, defamed or deported.

Un-American. The very word implied a consensus about what an American is and what an American is not that didn't exist then and doesn't exist today.

Yet the word hasn't died. The Trump administration called critical race theory un-American. Trump himself called members of Congress who didn't applaud at his 2018 State of the Union address un-American.

Others have tried to reclaim the word from the right. Bruce Springsteen called Trump's "Muslim ban" un-American. The ACLU—those fascists!—called George W. Bush's torture policies un-American. President Biden called efforts to restrict voting rights un-American.

It's a loaded and charged term with an ignoble past that should be used with caution and humility, because while we all do—or should—share certain fundamental values (such as opposition to torture), we also should agree that there is no single "correct" or "acceptable" set of beliefs for an American.

Speaking for myself, here's a recent use of the term I found merited, accurate and admirable.

Cassidy Hutchinson, testifying in front of a packed hearing room and 13 million television viewers, spoke with uncommon composure as she described seeing the U.S. Capitol "defaced over a lie" and overrun on Jan. 6, 2021.

"It was un-American," she said.

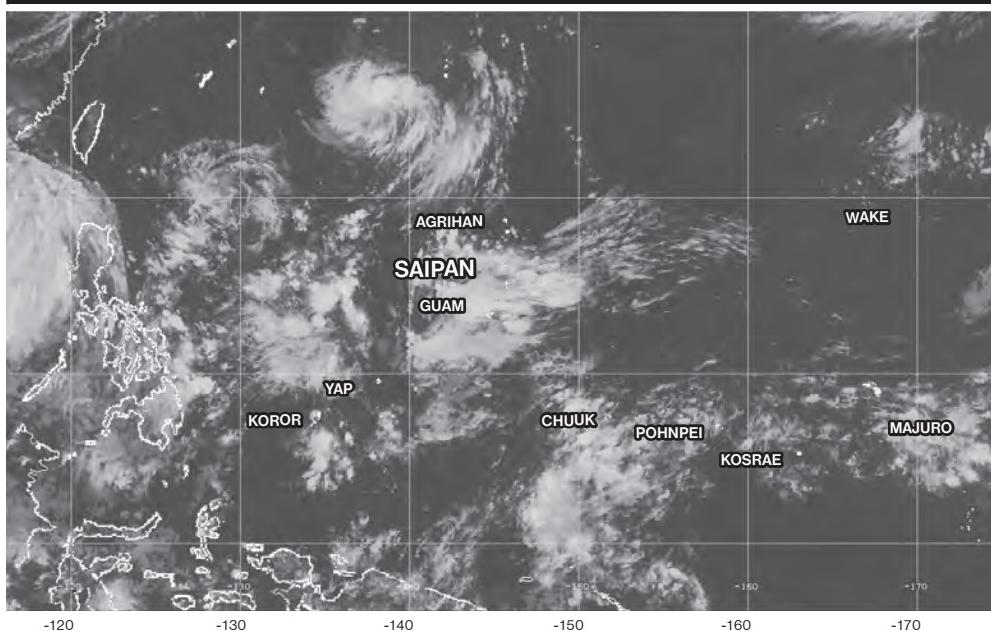
Yes it was. Good for her for saying so.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy	A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
84°	76°	84°	78°	86°
78°	86°	78°	86°	78°
88°	76°	84°	78°	86°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:21 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

This morning's Doppler radar and satellite loops show several showers with a few thunderstorms moving across the region. The latest altimetry and buoys observations indicate combined seas of 3 to 5 feet with a water temperature of 86 degrees at the Ipan buoy.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncoV/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 InfoLine at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncoV/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp/and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Source: Office of the Governor

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

■ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 sec-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	86°	/	79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85°	/	78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86°	/	79°
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85°	/	78°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85°	/	78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85°	/	80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:43 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	-	5:50 AM	7:07 PM
Saturday	-	6:54 AM	7:54 PM
Sunday	-	7:54 AM	8:37 PM
Monday	-	8:50 AM	9:17 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	72°	/	59°
Beijing	Sunny	80°	/	55°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73°	/	63°
Honolulu	Showers	82°	/	73°
London	Sunny	77°	/	54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73°	/	53°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	77°
Melbourne	Rain	66°	/	55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	78°	/	71°
New York	Showers	53°	/	36°
Osaka	Sunny	52°	/	39°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	39°	/	28°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	88°	/	67°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	90°	/	77°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70°	/	54°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59°	/	48°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	89°	/	66°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	88°	/	74°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	66°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:43 AM	Low Tide	1.44
5:40 AM	High Tide	2.17
1:10 PM	Low Tide	-0.43
8:19 PM	High Tide	2.10

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2022

DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117 9:50AM 10:30AM Daily					UA174 8:00AM 8:45AM Daily				
UA156 6:30PM 7:15PM 6					UA112 4:40PM 5:30PM 6				
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
PR 111 6:00AM 8:00AM Daily					PR110 10:00PM 4:00AM+1 Daily				
UA193 7:05PM 10:55PM 5 via Palau					UA184 10:25PM 4:25AM+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7				
UA183 7:10PM 9:10PM Daily					UA192 10:25PM 6:15AM+1 5 via Palau				
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					UA184/174 10:25PM 8:45AM+1 1,				

Business

US inflation will likely stay high even as gas prices fall

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans may finally be catching a break from relentlessly surging prices—if just a slight one—even as inflation is expected to remain painfully high for months.

Thanks largely to falling gas prices, the government's inflation report for July, to be released Wednesday morning, is expected to show that prices jumped 8.7% from a year earlier—still a sizzling pace but a slowdown from the 9.1% year-over-year figure in June, which was the highest in four decades.

The forecast by economists, if it proves correct, would raise hopes that inflation might have peaked and that the run of punishingly higher prices is beginning to ease slightly.



Gas prices are displayed at a Sunoco gas station along the Ohio Turnpike near Youngstown, Ohio, Tuesday, July 12, 2022. AP

There have been other hopeful signs, too, that the pace of inflation may be moderating.

At the same time, an array of other economic developments are threatening to keep intensifying inflation pressures. The pace of hiring is robust and average wages are up sharply. And even as gas prices fall, inflation in services such as health care, rents and restaurant meals is accelerating. Price changes in services tend to be sticky and don't

ease as quickly as they do for gas, food or other goods. Those trends suggest that overall inflation may not drop significantly anytime soon.

President Joe Biden has already pointed to falling gas prices as a sign that his policies—such as releases of oil from the nation's strategic reserve—are helping combat the higher costs that have hammered household budgets, particularly for lower-income families.

Yet Republicans will push

ongoing high inflation as a top campaign issue in this fall's elections, with polls showing that high prices have driven Biden's approval ratings down sharply.

On Friday, the House is poised to give final congressional approval to a revived tax-and-climate package pushed by Biden and Democratic lawmakers. The bill, which among other things aims to ease pharmaceutical prices by letting the govern-

ment negotiate Medicare's drug costs, is expected to cut the federal budget deficit by \$300 billion over a decade.

Yet economists say the measure, which its proponents have titled the Inflation Reduction Act, will have only a minimal effect on inflation over the next several years, though it could slow price increases a bit more later this decade.

Economists have forecast that Wednesday's inflation report will show that consumer prices rose 0.2% from June to July, according to FactSet. That would mark a steep drop from the 1.3% jump from May to June.

But excluding the volatile food and energy categories, so-called core inflation likely stayed high. Economists project that core prices rose 0.5% from July, still a sharp rise, though down from the 0.7% jump in June. Such an increase would leave core prices 6.1% higher than a year ago, up from a 5.9% year-over-year increase in June.

USPS to request rate increase due to inflation, DeJoy says

WASHINGTON (AP)—Inflation is going to add over \$1 billion to the U.S. Postal Service budget, necessitating a request for another rate increase in January, but the service is well prepared for the November election, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy said Tuesday.

The Postal Service has already delivered about 40 million ballots to and from voters along with a total of 550 million COVID-19 test kits, DeJoy said.

"Americans should be confident that the United States

Postal Service is well prepared and will provide extraordinary services in these coming November elections," he told the Board of Governors.

Third quarter results for the first time reflected a sweeping congressional overhaul—leading to a non-cash benefit of nearly \$59.6 billion. But DeJoy cautioned against reading too much into the one-time benefit, without which the Postal Service would've suffered an adjusted loss of \$459 million.

"The fact of the matter is

that we have a long road and a lot of hard work ahead in our 10-year transformation to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Postal Service," DeJoy said.

The quarterly results were the first to reflect an overhaul signed into law by President Joe Biden in April.

The Postal Service Reform Act lifted requirements that contributed to the agency's red ink, like prepaying future retiree health benefits—an obligation that private com-

China's youth face bleak job market as COVID slows economy

BEIJING (AP)—Liu Qian, job-hunting with a new master's degree, said two employers interviewed her and then said the positions had been eliminated. Others asked her to take lower pay.

She is one of 11 million new graduates desperate for work in a bleak job market as anti-virus controls force factories, restaurants and other employers to close. The survivors are cutting jobs and wages.

"Am I not worth it?" Liu asked. "From the moment I started looking for a job, I felt as if my future were smashed by a machine, and I don't know if I can piece it together."

Liu, 26, said some employers balked when she asked for a monthly salary of 8,000 yuan (\$1,200). The average graduate last year was paid the equivalent of 9,800 yuan (\$1,500) per month, according to Liepin, a job-hunting platform.

There were almost two graduates competing for every job opening in the three months ending in June, up from 1.4 the previous quarter, according to the China Institute for Employment Research and Zhaopin.com, another job-hunting website.

China's job drought echoes the struggles of young people

worldwide to find work in depressed economies but is especially sensitive politically in a year when President Xi Jinping is expected to try to extend his time in power.

Graduates often come from urban families who are the biggest winners from China's economic growth, an important source of political support. The ruling party needs them, especially those with technical training, to start their careers to propel industry development.

Luckily, a publishing house hired Liu in late July, two months after her graduation. The official unemployment

rate in June for people aged 16 to 24 was almost 20%, compared with 5.5% for all ages. That is expected to rise once the latest graduates are taken into account.

Premier Li Keqiang, the top economic official and No. 2 in the ruling party, said in March the government hoped to generate 13 million new jobs this year but did not say how many might be lost to companies closing. Li said 16 million people were expected to be looking for work.

Li promised "pro-job policies" including tax and fee cuts totaling 2.5 trillion yuan (\$400 billion) for employers.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chipotle to pay NYC workers \$20M for violating labor laws

NEW YORK (AP)—Chipotle Mexican Grill will pay \$20 million to current and former workers at its New York City restaurants for violating city labor laws, Mayor Eric Adams announced Tuesday. According to investigators, Chipotle's violations of the city's Fair Workweek law included failing to post work schedules 14 days in advance, pay a premium for schedule changes and offer available shifts to current employees before hiring new employees. The settlement between the city and the California-based fast-food chain covers about 13,000 employees who worked at the chain's New York City outlets between 2017 and this year. It is the result of an investigation by the city's Department of Consumer and Worker Protection into complaints filed by 160 Chipotle workers and Local 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union, city officials said.

Warren Buffett's company has bet \$47B on the oil sector

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Warren Buffett's company has bought up more than \$11 billion worth of Occidental Petroleum stock this year, giving Berkshire Hathaway control of more than 20% of the oil producer. Occidental's stock rose more than 3.5% on Tuesday to \$62.18 after Buffett revealed his latest purchases of nearly 6.7 million Occidental shares worth more than \$400 million. Wall

Street follows Buffett's actions closely, including his investments in Occidental Petroleum. Its shares have more than doubled in price this year. Berkshire has repeatedly acquired shares of the Houston driller whenever the stock falls below \$60 in recent months. Buffett also dropped more than \$20 billion on Chevron stock in the first quarter of this year and took advantage of the surge in oil prices after Russia invaded Ukraine. Berkshire's Chevron stake is worth more than \$24 billion.

Estonia, Finland want Europe to end Russian tourist visas

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—The leaders of Estonia and Finland want fellow European countries to stop issuing tourist visas to Russian citizens, saying they should not be able to take vacations in Europe while the Russian government carries out a war in Ukraine. Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas wrote Tuesday on Twitter that "visiting Europe is a privilege, not a human right" and that it is "time to end tourism from Russia now." A day earlier, her counterpart in Finland, Sanna Marin, told Finnish broadcaster YLE that "it is not right that while Russia is waging an aggressive, brutal war of aggression in Europe, Russians can live a normal life, travel in Europe, be tourists."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy went further in a Washington Post interview Monday, saying all Western countries should ban Russian tourists.

She is one of 11 million new graduates desperate for work in a bleak job market as anti-virus controls force factories, restaurants and other employers to close. The survivors are cutting jobs and wages.

"Am I not worth it?" Liu asked. "From the moment I started looking for a job, I felt as if my future were smashed by a machine, and I don't know if I can piece it together."

China's job drought echoes the struggles of young people

Nation

GOP rallies around Trump following FBI search of his estate

NEW YORK (AP)—For much of the year, small cracks in Donald Trump's political support have been growing.

Dissatisfied Republican primary voters began to consider new presidential prospects. GOP donors grappled with damaging revelations uncovered by the Jan. 6 committee. Several party leaders pondered challenging Trump for the party's 2024 nomination.

But after the FBI executed a search warrant at his Florida estate, the Republican Party unified swiftly behind the former president.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who likely represents Trump's strongest potential primary challenger, described the Biden administration as a "regime" and called Monday's Mar-a-Lago search for improperly taken classified documents "another escalation in the weaponization of federal agencies against the Regime's political opponents."

The GOP push to portray Trump as the victim of a politicized Justice Department ignored the potential criminal



misconduct that justified the search in the eyes of a federal judge. It overlooked Trump's role in hiring now-vilified FBI Director Chris Wray, who also served as a high-ranking offi-

cial in a Republican-led Justice Department. The Biden White House, meanwhile, said it had no prior knowledge of the search.

But the robust defense

serves as a fresh reminder of the former president's enduring grip on the GOP, driven by an ability to use a sense of grievance among many Republican voters toward

government and other institutions. Trump tapped into that animosity to overcome two impeachments and the fallout

AP
Trump supporters carry flags near Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla., on Tuesday, August 9, 2022.

from an insurrection. His allies said Tuesday that the FBI search would only strengthen his position again.

"The sooner he kicks off his campaign, the better," Indiana GOP Rep. Jim Banks, the chair of the Republican Study Committee, said in an interview.

Banks was among about a dozen Republican lawmakers who spent several hours Tuesday evening with Trump at his summer home in Bedminster, New Jersey. During a meal that included steak, scallops, mashed potatoes, salad and a Trump cookie, the group talked about the upcoming midterm elections and the 2024 presidential race, Banks said.

The former president told the lawmakers "his mind is made up" about a 2024 campaign and "we'll all be happy with his decision."

'We're back, baby': New bill boosts US climate credibility

WASHINGTON (AP)—After a moment when hopes dimmed that the United States could become an international leader on climate change, legislation that Congress is poised to approve could rejuvenate the country's reputation and bolster its efforts to push other nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions more quickly.

The head-snapping turn of events, which has generated a joyful case of whiplash

among Democrats and environmentalists, is a reminder of how domestic politics is intertwined with worldwide diplomacy.

Advocates feared that last month's breakdown in negotiations in Congress had undermined efforts to limit the catastrophic effects of global warming. Now they're energized by the opportunity to tout an unprecedented U.S. success.

"This says, 'We're back,

baby,'" said Jennifer Turner, who works on international climate issues as director of the Woodrow Wilson Center's China Environment Forum in Washington.

The legislation, which also has provisions on taxes and prescription drugs, includes about \$375 billion over the next decade for clean energy development and financial incentives for buying electric cars, installing solar panels and weaning the power grid

off fossil fuels. Although the proposals were downsized during difficult negotiations, it's the single biggest investment in climate change in U.S. history, and a significant shift from years of inaction that limited Washington's clout overseas.

The Senate passed the legislation on Sunday, and the House is expected to approve it on Friday. Then it goes to President Joe Biden for his signature.

Afghan man charged in killings of four Muslims in New Mexico

By STEFANIE DAZIO and
MARIAM FAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The ambush killings of four Muslim men in Albuquerque, New Mexico, shook the community but inspired a flood of information, including a tip that led to the arrest of a local Muslim man originally from Afghanistan who knew the victims, authorities said.



Syed

rial killings or both. Syed was from Afghanistan and had lived in the United States for about five years, police said.

"The offender knew the victims to some extent, and an interpersonal conflict may have led to the shootings," a police statement said, although investigators were still working to identify how they had crossed paths.

When asked specifically if Syed, a Sunni Muslim, was angry that his daughter married a Shiite Muslim, Deputy Police Cmdr. Kyle Hartsock did not respond directly. He said "motives are still being explored fully to understand what they are."

Assed acknowledged that "there was a marriage," but he cautioned against coming to any conclusions about the motivation of Syed, who occasionally attended the center's mosque.

Police said Syed gave them a statement but didn't disclose details.

The slayings drew the attention of President Joe Biden, who said such attacks "have no place in America." They also sent a shudder through Muslim communities across the U.S. Some people questioned their safety and limited their movements.

ACROSS THE NATION

Nebraska woman charged with helping daughter have abortion

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP)—A Nebraska woman has been charged with helping her teenage daughter end her pregnancy at about 24 weeks after investigators uncovered Facebook messages in which the two discussed using medication to induce an abortion and plans to burn the fetus afterward. The prosecutor handling the case said it's the first time he has charged anyone for illegally performing an abortion after 20 weeks, a restriction that was passed in 2010. Before the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in June, states weren't allowed to enforce abortion bans until the point at which a fetus is considered viable out-

side the womb, at roughly 24 weeks. In one of the Facebook messages, Jessica Burgess, 41, tells her then 17-year-old daughter that she has obtained abortion pills for her and gives her instructions on how to take them to end the pregnancy.

Rep. Scott Perry says FBI agents seized his cellphone

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. Rep. Scott Perry said his cellphone was seized Tuesday morning by FBI agents carrying a search warrant. The circumstances surrounding the seizure were not immediately known. Perry, though, has been a figure in the congressional investigation into President Donald Trump's actions leading up to the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection. Former senior Justice Depart-

ment officials have testified that Perry, a Pennsylvania Republican, had "an important role" in Trump's effort to try to install Jeffrey Clark—a top Justice official who was pushing Trump's baseless claims of election fraud—as the acting attorney general. In a statement Tuesday, Perry said three agents visited him while he was traveling Tuesday with his family and "seized my cell phone." He called the action "banana republic tactics."

Salon shooting suspect indicted for anti-Asian hate crime

DALLAS (AP)—A man accused of shooting three Asian American women at a hair salon was indicted Tuesday on multiple counts, including committing a hate crime.

The Dallas County District Attorney's Office announced the indictment Tuesday of Jeremy Terrence Smith, 37, for the May 11 shooting at a salon in Dallas' Koreatown. It alleges Smith entered the salon and fired 13 shots from a .22-caliber rifle, wounding three women and endangering four others. "Smith is alleged to have intentionally selected the complainants because of his bias or prejudice against Asian Americans," according to the statement. According to a police affidavit, Smith's girlfriend told police detectives that he had been delusional about Asian Americans since being involved in a car crash two years ago with a man of Asian descent. She said he had been admitted to several mental health facilities because of the delusions.

The Muslim community is breathing "an incredible sigh of relief," said Ahmad Assed, president of the Islamic Center of New Mexico. "Lives have been turned upside down."

It wasn't immediately clear whether Syed had an attorney to speak on his behalf.

The first killing last November was followed by three more between July 26 and Aug. 5.

Police Chief Harold Medina said it was not clear yet whether the deaths should be classified as hate crimes or se-

Asia

Recovery underway in South Korea's rain-hit capital areas



A woman cleans up debris after the water drained from a submerged traditional market following heavy rainfall in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Cleanup and recovery efforts gained pace in South Korea's greater capital region Wednesday as skies cleared after two days of record-breaking rainfall that unleashed flash floods, damaged thousands of buildings and roads and killed at least nine people.

While lifting heavy rain warnings for Seoul and the neighboring metropolitan areas, South Korea's weather agency forecasted 10 to 30 centimeters (4 to 12 inches) of rain in the country's southern regions through Thursday.

Seven people remain missing in Seoul and nearby Gyeonggi Province following the heavy rains that swamped the region Monday and Tuesday, turning streets into car-

clogged rivers, sending floods cascading into subway stations, triggering landslides that crashed into roads and buildings, and displacing more than 1,800 people from their homes. The nine people who died included four who drowned in their homes in Seoul.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol during a disaster response meeting Wednesday apologized on behalf of the government over the deaths and disruption caused by the heavy rains. He urged the central government to provide more financial help and personnel assistance to cities and regional governments to speed up recovery efforts.

He also called for significant improvements to the country's flood management

systems, including building more rain tanks and tunnels and improving flood-prediction technologies, citing the growing challenges posed by extreme weather events.

"It's certainly true that (the rainfall) was abnormal weather, but we have come to a point where we can no longer call abnormal weather abnormal," Yoon said. "We could see new record levels (of rain) at any time. We need to build our response so that we are ready for a situation that's worse than we had imagined."

The Ministry of the Interior and Safety said workers through Wednesday afternoon had finished restoring more than 90% of some 2,800 buildings, homes, roads and other facilities in the capital area that had been prioritized

cation Church "so that we can achieve political and administrative work that can be trusted by the people." Abe was fatally shot while giving a campaign speech July 8, two days before a parliamentary election.

Top Chinese, South Korean diplomats pledge closer ties

BEIJING (AP)—The top South Korean and Chinese diplomats pledged Tuesday to develop closer relations and maintain stable industrial supply chains at a time of deepening rivalry between Beijing and Washington. South Korea, a longtime U.S. ally, is struggling to strike a balance between Washington and the increasingly assertive foreign policy of Chinese President

Xi Jinping's government. U.S.-Chinese conflict over Taiwan has added to complications for governments that want amicable ties with both sides. Foreign Ministers Park Jin and Wang Yi, in separate statements from their meeting in the eastern Chinese city of Qingdao, called for the development of relations based on three decades of successful commercial ties. Park's ministry said the countries agreed to increase high-level communication over supply chain issues, climate change cooperation and facilitating cultural exchanges. It said the countries agreed to pursue "two-plus-two" talks by vice ministerial-level officials of foreign affairs and defense within this year.

World

Large blasts rock a Russian air base in Crimea

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Powerful explosions rocked a Russian air base in Crimea and sent towering clouds of smoke over the landscape Tuesday in what may mark an escalation of the war in Ukraine. At least one person was killed and several others were wounded, authorities said.

Russia's Defense Ministry denied the Saki base on the Black Sea had been shelled and said instead that munitions had blown up there. But Ukrainian social networks were abuzz with speculation that it was hit by Ukrainian-fired long-range missiles.

Videos posted on social networks showed sunbathers on nearby beaches fleeing as huge flames and pillars of smoke rose over the horizon from multiple points, accompanied by loud booms. Crimea Today News said on

Telegram that witnesses reported fire on a runway and damage to nearby homes as a result of what it said were dozens of blasts.

Russia's state news agency Tass quoted an unidentified ministry source as saying the explosions' primary cause appeared to be a "violation of fire safety requirements." The ministry said no warplanes were damaged.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry said sarcastically on Facebook: "The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine cannot establish the cause of the fire, but once again recalls the rules of fire safety and the prohibition of smoking in unspecified places."

A presidential adviser, Oleksiy Arestovych, said cryptically in his regular online interview that the blasts were caused either

by a Ukrainian-made long-range weapon or were the work of partisans operating in Crimea.

During the war, Russia has reported numerous fires and explosions at munitions storage sites on its territory near the Ukrainian border, blaming some of them on Ukrainian strikes. Ukrainian authorities have mostly remained mum about the incidents.

If Ukrainian forces were, in fact, responsible for the blasts at the air base, it would be the first known major attack on a Russian military site on the Crimean Peninsula, which the Kremlin annexed in 2014. A smaller explosion last month at the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet in the Crimean port of Sevastopol was blamed on Ukrainian saboteurs using a makeshift drone.

Fire consumes 4th tank at Cuba oil facility

HAVANA (AP)—Flames engulfed a fourth tank at an oil storage facility in western Cuba on Tuesday as the raging fire consumes critical fuel supplies on an island grappling with a growing energy crisis.

Firefighters and specialists from Mexico and Venezuela helped fight the blaze in the province of Matanzas with boats, planes and helicopters as they sprayed foam on the containers, a first for crews since broiling temperatures had prevented them from doing so earlier.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said crews have taken control of the area where the fire is burning and are taking further steps to quell it.

"They are not easy tasks,"

Palestinians: Israeli troops kill 3 militants in West Bank

fire, among other means, to a violent protest.

Israeli police said security forces encircled the home of Ibrahim al-Nabulsi, who they say was wanted for a string of shootings in the West Bank earlier this year. They confirmed that al-Nabulsi and another Palestinian militant were killed in a shootout at the scene, and that troops found arms and explosives in his home.

The Israeli military said that troops came under attack from Palestinians throwing rocks and explosives, and that soldiers responded with live fire. It confirmed Palestinians were shot, but did not

who are still living here," said Adneris Diaz a 22-year-old cafe owner.

The eight-tank facility plays a crucial role in Cuba's electric system: it operates an extensive oil pipeline that receives Cuban crude oil that is then ferried to thermoelectric plants that produce electricity. It also serves as the unloading and transshipment center for imported crude oil, fuel oil and diesel.

The facility caught on fire late Friday after lightning struck one of its tanks, sparking several explosions as it spread over the weekend. The first tank was at 50% capacity and contained nearly 883,000 cubic feet (25,000 cubic meters) of fuel. The second tank was full.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said three people were killed — al-Nabulsi, Islam Sabouh and Hussein Jamal Taha — and at least 40 were wounded.

The armed wing of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party, the Al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigade, later claimed the three as its members and vowed retaliation. The Fatah party said the organization "mourns its martyred sons" and said the three had "sacrificed their lives in defense of our great people and their right to freedom and independence."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan PM to name new Cabinet, shifting some over church ties

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is set to reshuffle his Cabinet on Wednesday in a move seen as trying to distance his administration from controversial ties to the Unification Church following former leader Shinzo Abe's assassination. The Cabinet renewal will be the second in just 10 months since Kishida took office. He told reporters Tuesday that a "strict review" of candidates' ties to the church would be a "prerequisite" in the new lineup of Cabinet officials and Liberal Democratic Party executives. Kishida said he has instructed his ministers and other senior officials to clarify their connection to the Unifi-

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli troops killed three Palestinian militants and wounded dozens in a shootout that erupted during an arrest raid in the city of Nablus in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday.

The shootout came a day after a cease-fire ended three days of fighting between Israel and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group in the Gaza Strip.

In a separate incident in the West Bank city of Hebron, the Palestinian Health Ministry said a 17-year-old was killed by Israeli fire. The Israeli military said forces were responding with live

Environment

'THE SACRIFICE ZONE'

Myanmar bears the cost of green energy

By DAKE KANG, VICTORIA
MILKO and LORI HINNANT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The birds no longer sing, and the herbs no longer grow. The fish no longer swim in rivers that have turned a murky brown. The animals do not roam, and the cows are sometimes found dead.

The people in this northern Myanmar forest have lost a way of life that goes back generations. But if they complain, they, too, face the threat of death.

This forest is the source of several key metallic elements known as rare earths, often called the vitamins of the modern world. Rare earths now reach into the lives of almost everyone on the planet, turning up in everything from hard drives and cellphones to elevators and trains. They are especially vital to the fast-growing field of green energy, feeding wind turbines and electric car engines. And they end up in the supply chains of some of the most prominent companies in the world, including General Motors, Volkswagen, Mercedes, Tesla, and Apple.

But an AP investigation has found that their universal use hides a dirty open secret in the industry: Their cost is environmental destruction, the theft of land from villagers and the funneling of money to brutal militias, including at least one linked to Myanmar's secretive military government. As demand soars for rare earths along with green energy, the abuses are likely to grow.

"This rapid push to build out mining capacity is being justified in the name of climate change," said Julie Michelle Klinger, author of the book "Rare Earths Frontiers," who is leading a federal project to trace illicit energy minerals. "There's still this push to find the right place to mine them, which is a place that is out of sight and out of mind."

The AP investigation drew on dozens of interviews, customs data, corporate records and Chinese academic papers, along with satellite imagery and geological analysis gathered by the environmental non-profit Global Witness, to tie rare earths from Myanmar to the supply chains of 78 companies.

About a third of the companies responded. Of those, about two-thirds didn't or wouldn't comment on their sourcing, including Volkswa-

gen, which said it was conducting due diligence for rare earths. Nearly all said they took environmental protection and human rights seriously.

Some companies said they audited their rare earth supply chains; others didn't or required only supplier self-assessments. GM said it understood "the risks of heavy rare earths metals" and would source from an American supplier soon.

Tesla did not respond to repeated requests for comment, and Mercedes said they contacted suppliers to learn more in response to this story. Apple said "a majority" of their rare earths were recycled and they found "no evidence" of any from Myanmar, but experts say in general there is usually no way to make sure.

Just as dirty rare earths trickle down the supply chains of companies, they also slip through the cracks of regulation.

In 2010, in response to war in the Congo, Congress required companies to disclose the origin of so-called conflict minerals—tantalum, tin, gold and tungsten—and promise their sourcing does not benefit armed groups. But the law does not cover rare earths. Audits are left up to individual companies, and no single agency is held accountable.

The State Department, which leads work on securing the U.S. rare earths supply, did not respond to repeated requests for comment. But experts say the government weighs the regulation of rare earths against other green goals, such as the sales and use of electric vehicles. With ongoing negotiations in Congress, the issue has become increasingly touchy, they say.

Rare earths are also omitted from the European Union's 2021 regulation on conflict minerals. A European Commission statement noted gaps in oversight of the supply chain stretching to Europe, and said "it is yet unclear how" a Chinese push to regulate rare earths will work.

With no regulation or alternatives, companies have quietly continued shipping rare earths without environmental, social and governance audits, known as ESG.

"What would be the result if now the world would say, 'We want to do ESG audits on all rare earths production?'" Caught in the crossfire were



In this early 2022 photo provided by Global Witness, a new rare earth mine is dug into the side of a mountain in Pangwa, Kachin, Myanmar.

logs in ramshackle cabins. The miners dug hundreds of feet deep with shovels and their bare, calloused hands.

"I lived in a virgin forest, I lived like a savage," he said.

He and other Chinese workers in Myanmar described a web of small, unlicensed private mines that sell to China's big state-owned mining conglomerates — directly or through trade intermediaries. When cash changes hands, few questions are asked.

"I'm only responsible for digging the mountain up and selling it," Guo said. "The rest is none of my business."

Since 2015, imports from Myanmar have grown almost a hundredfold, according to UN trade data. Myanmar is now China's single largest source of heavy rare earths, making up nearly half of the supply, according to Chinese customs data and expert estimates.

A few years ago, there were just two or three mines in Myanmar, then dozens. Today there are hundreds, and Guo guesses there may soon be thousands. At this pace, he predicts, it won't be long before Myanmar's rare earths are all gone.

But Guo cares little about preservation or politics.

"They talk about future generations, I'm talking about survival today," he said. "We just see if we can make money. It's that simple."

The story of rare earths is one of a naked grab for resources while leaving the wreckage to other countries.

vironmental and cost issues. China's leader at the time, Deng Xiaoping, declared rare earths China's answer to "oil in the Middle East." Tens of thousands of Chinese in the countryside discovered that they could make more in a month of mining than years of farming.

For decades the industry prospered. China became the world's foremost miner of rare earths. A Beijing magazine called the profits "more addictive than drugs."

Then, stung by public criticism, officials in Beijing declared war on the country's dirty industries, including rare earths mining. At a 2012 press conference in Beijing, a top Chinese industry official brandished photos of the devastation—pockmarked land stripped bare of vegetation.

Caught in the crossfire were

miners like Guo, who asked to be identified by his last name only.

For years, Guo, a former car repairman, earned a handsome living after joining the booming rare earths industry in his native Jiangxi province. Then Beijing began enforcing some of the world's strongest environmental laws, shutting down mom-and-pop operations like his. Chinese satellites now snap photos from space, hunting for hidden mines.

But even while the supply

from China a "national security risk." Concerned that its shrinking reserves could allow Western countries to break its stranglehold on the industry, China encouraged companies to look abroad.

"Environmental controls have become much stricter," said a government trade researcher, who declined to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media. "That's why imports have increased. It's better to get rare earths from abroad."

The Chinese foreign, industrial and environmental ministries and the Jiangxi regional government did not respond to requests for comment.

As mines in China shuttered, ore prices rose. In neighboring Myanmar, home to some of the world's richest deposits of what are known as heavy rare earths, opportunity beckoned. Thousands of Jiangxi miners streamed across the border.

"It reminds me of the European colonial attitudes towards Africa," said an industry analyst, speaking on condition of anonymity to avoid damaging ties with the Chinese government. "You just can't be relying on third-world-type mining practices in a dictatorship like Myanmar. It's not sustainable."

That does not bother Guo. In 2019, he got a call. An old contact was opening up shop in Myanmar and needed a technician. Would he like to go?

Guo said yes, joining what he describes as a modern-day gold rush. He recounted primitive working conditions, including clouds of mosquitoes and nights spent burning

There is a name for what Myanmar has become: A "sacrifice zone," or a place that destroys itself for the good of the world.

The sacrifice is visible from the air, in toxic turquoise pools that dot the landscape covered by mountain jungles just a few years ago. Since rare earth clays in Myanmar are soft and near the surface, they can easily be scooped into these pools of chemicals. Satellite imagery commissioned by Global Witness showed more than 2,700 of these pools at almost 300 separate locations.

The leaching agents have tainted tributaries of Myanmar's main river, prompted landslides and poisoned the earth, according to witnesses, miners and local activists. Water is no longer drinkable, and endangered species such as tigers, pangolins and red pandas have fled the area.

A villager who lives along a river some 15 miles from the center of the mining sites said his wife used to catch and sell fish. Now the few they can catch make them ill, so they must buy from elsewhere at higher prices instead. Every time he enters the water, his feet feel itchy.

Life & Style

Issey Miyake, known for bold sculpted designs, dies at 84

TOKYO (AP)—Issey Miyake, who built one of Japan's biggest fashion brands and was known for his boldly sculpted pleated pieces as well as former Apple CEO Steve Jobs' black turtlenecks, has died. He was 84.

Miyake died last Friday of liver cancer, Miyake Design Office said Tuesday.

Miyake defined an era in Japan's modern history, reaching stardom in the 1970s among a generation of designers and artists who reached global fame by defining a Japanese vision that was unique from the West.

Miyake's origami-like pleats transformed usually crass polyester into chic. He also used computer technology in weaving to create apparel. His down-to-earth clothing



Japanese fashion designer Issey Miyake smiles standing among models after the presentation of his "1993/1994 fall/winter ready to wear collection" on March 17, 1993 in Paris, France. AP

was meant to celebrate the human body regardless of race, build, size or age.

Miyake even detested being called a fashion designer, choosing not to identify with what he saw as a frivolous, trend-watching, conspicuous consumption.

Again and again, Miyake returned to his basic concept of starting with a single piece of cloth—be it draped, folded, cut or wrapped.

Over the years, he took inspiration from a variety of cultures and societal motifs, as well as everyday items—plastic, rattan, "washi" paper, jute, horsehair, foil, yarn, batik, indigo dyes and wiring.

He sometimes evoked images of Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin, or collaborated with Japanese painter Tadanori Yokoo in images of monkeys and foliage in vibrant, psychedelic hues.

He also collaborated with furniture and interior designer Shiro Kuramata, photographer Irving Penn, choreographer and director Maurice Bejart, pottery maker Lucie Rie and Ballet Frankfurt.

In 1992, Miyake was commissioned to design the official Olympic uniform for Lithuania, which had just gained independence from the Soviet Union.

Born in Hiroshima in 1938, Miyake was a star as soon as he hit the European runways. His brown top, which combined the Japanese sewn fabric "sashiko" with raw silk knit, was splashed on the cover of the September 1973 issue of Elle magazine.

As Spider-Man turns 60, fans reflect on diverse appeal

NEW YORK (AP)—Spider-Man fandom is in Tyler Scott Hoover's blood—but not because he was bitten by an irradiated arachnid. His father had collected Marvel comic books featuring the character since the 1970s.

"He passed down a ton of comics to me," says Hoover, 32, of Glen Burnie, Maryland. "It kind of makes it almost like a religion. It would have been hard for me not to become a fan of Spider-Man."

There are legions of fans of Spider-Man, who this month marks 60 years in the vast, imaginative world of comic books, movies and merch.

Among those fans are devotees like Hoover, a professional

Spider-Man cosplayer and model who doesn't resemble the longtime "canon" presentation of the character. However, in the cinematic and comics universes, a Black Spider-Man is now reality.

Hoover is biracial—of Black and white ancestry—and stands at 6 feet 2 inches. And the story of his fandom illustrates an important point about New York City's favorite super-powered wall-crawler: The appeal of the character long ago transcended its original iteration as a white, unimposing, orphaned teenager.

The Spider-Man character's classic costume, complete with wide-eyed and web-patterned mask, is a key ingredient to the character's appeal across race,

gender and nationality. Almost anyone can imagine themselves behind it as this everyman—an underestimated smartypants who, after a quick change into head-to-toe spandex, becomes a force for good.

"The older I got, slowly but surely, I saw how relatable the character was," Hoover says. "He had to work through his struggles while still maintaining a secret identity and doing good for the people. That kind of moral compass is powerful, especially for an impressionable mind."

More importantly, Hoover says, it's Spider-Man's struggle to protect his hometown that makes the character more believable than superheroes whose

origin stories include wealth and influence. No coincidence, surely, that he refers to himself as "your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man."

Created by the late Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, Spider-Man appeared in comics as early as June 1962, although the canon date of his debut is Aug. 10, 1962, in Marvel's Amazing Fantasy #15. Peter Parker, a high schooler bitten by a spider from a science experiment, developed superhuman strength, the ability to cling to solid surfaces and fast reflexes aided by the ability to sense and anticipate danger.

But on his journey to becoming a superhero, Parker fails to stop a burglar who kills his



In these undated photos provided by Tyler Scott Hoover, a professional Spider-Man cosplayer and model, Hoover is pictured in the classic costume of the Marvel comic superhero.

Uncle Ben, leaving his adoptive aunt widowed. The character then strives to honor the words etched at the end of that de-

but issue, later attributed to his uncle: "With great power, there must also come great responsibility."

Jealousy undermines woman's relationship with retiree

DEAR ABBY: I've been in a "friend with benefits" relationship for more than a year now. I'm 57 and he's 79. I was raised a Christian and wanted to save myself for marriage. This is the first time I have loved someone and been the FWB. I'm jealous of his last girlfriend and what they had together. She wanted to get married, and he didn't.

A woman at my church says I ought to just remain friends with him and pray God will send me a man who will love and marry me. This is a retirement town. There aren't many available men my age. I feel guilty because I went against my Christian faith. I'd appreciate your advice.

IN LIMBO IN ARIZONA

DEAR IN LIMBO: Why are you wasting your time being jealous of his ex-girlfriend? They are history. The odds of you changing this man's mind on the subject of marriage are not good, but you knew that from the beginning. The guilt you're carrying may be the price you pay for whatever pleasure this relationship brings you.

Since pickings are so slim in your community, please note that I'm not telling you to end it. However, if the situation becomes increasingly painful, that's what you should do. Because you are deeply religious, this may be a subject to discuss with your religious adviser.

DEAR ABBY: Five years ago, our son was arrested for child porn. At the time, he was responsible for running our family business. When he was sent to prison for two years, we realized he had been running it into the ground, plus stealing as much as he could. We have not spoken since. Our grandson is now being married, and he wants us to attend. We haven't spoken to our grandson or his father since all this happened. Must we attend this wedding?

BAD BLOOD IN FLORIDA

DEAR BAD BLOOD: It would be unfair to shun your grandson for the sins of his father. MUST you attend the wedding? No. SHOULD you go? I think so. When you do, be cordial to your son. You do not have to see him often or at all after that, but keep in mind there may be other family celebrations in the future.

DEAR ABBY: I have a best friend of 15 years. (We even got matching tattoos.) However, I feel like I'm always put on the back burner. I'm easygoing, so maybe she feels she doesn't need to be a good friend in return? I understand we all have busy lives, but there are 24 hours in a day and seven days in a week. It doesn't take but a minute to send a text to ask how I'm doing. Am I being unrealistic for wanting a

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

friendship that goes both ways?

LOST IN A FRIENDSHIP

DEAR LOST: It is only unrealistic if you have spoken to your longtime friend about how you feel (15 years late) and she's unwilling to expend a little more effort in your direction. I recommend you have that long-overdue conversation with her and let her know what your needs are.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Watterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



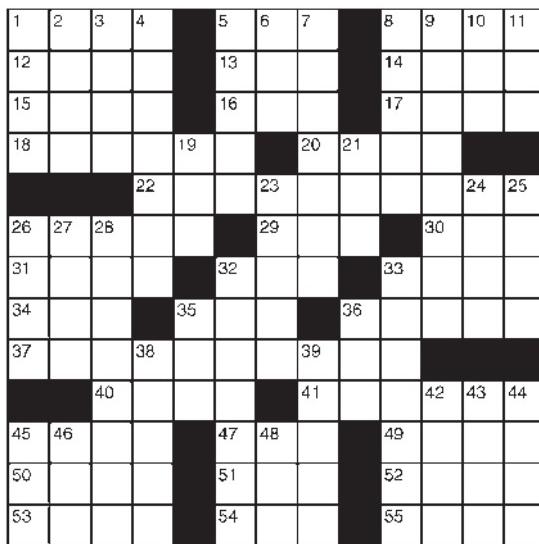
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	33 Nov.	54 Carried out	21 Soup cooker
1 Pickle holders	honorees	34 401(k)	55 Lushes
5 Klutz	alter-native	35 Notable time	23 Skewered entree
8 Pre-weekend yell	36 Trig terms	1 Want-ad listings	24 Assess
12 Layered cookie	37 Consecutive	2 Region	25 Smooch
13 School org.	40 Puerto	3 Coral formation	26 Chicago paper; briefly
14 Nozzle site	—	4 Sleeper	27 Actress Farmiga
15 Complaint	41 Small apes	5 Eye-related	28 "American Idol"
16 Mahal preцeder	45 Help a hood	6 One-time link	host Ryan
17 Memory method	47 Fanatic	7 Tex-Mex wraps	32 Sang softly
18 Jungle trek	49 Aswan's river	8 Toss	33 Minnesota footballers
20 Apple product	50 Roster	9 Favorable sign	35 Catchall abbr.
22 "Lunch break is over!"	51 Compass dir.	10 Follower (Suff.)	36 Learning ctr.
26 Sports bar fixture	52 Radiate	11 Service charge	38 Poker pot
29 "Mangia!"	53 —-bitty	19 Squealer	39 Played a part
30 Avril follower	Solution time: 24 mins.	40 Puerto	42 Actor O'Shea
31 Marsh plant	—	41 Small apes	43 Conspiracy
32 "Blue Bloods" airer	M F W T P I P E A A R O N O N I A S P O R E S Q U I C K T H I N K I N G S T S E W E R S G C O P S A S S H U T S K I T S T R Y S T S W A T T R O V P E N A R O C M M T A F A S T F C O D C H A I N T A R T A N O I L E D S E E D S M R I S E R S S E A	44 Stitches	45 Boxing legend

Yesterday's answer 8-11



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Alyson Stoner, 29; Chris Hemsworth, 39; Roxana Ortega, 49; Duane Martin, 57.

Happy Birthday: Take stock of the past and present, then map your future. Eliminate negativity and replace it with a winner's attitude. Look for opportunities to learn something new, and incorporate a different perspective into what you want to achieve. Refuse to let anyone interfere or make decisions for you. Assume the role of controller of your destiny. Your numbers are 8, 11, 24, 29, 32, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look at the big picture, and you'll see how to use your skills to get ahead. Align yourself with someone who recognizes your strengths and can contribute to what you are trying to achieve. Romance and self-improvement are favored.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Know when to decline an offer. If you let someone railroad you into something you haven't thought through, you will find it difficult to redirect and accommodate your desires. Don't give away personal information or plans. Be a leader, not a follower.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your internal radar to figure out what others are thinking or going to do next. Staying ahead of the competition is mandatory. Listen and observe what others do, and you'll be encouraged to devise an efficient alternative.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Pitch in and help, and you'll gain trust and support from someone who can help you advance. A change of plans will unfold if you explain op-

tions to those you need by your side to help you complete what you want to achieve.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take pride in what you do, and refuse to let other people's negativity slow you down or make you angry. Stretch your mind to include new and exciting ways to use your intelligence and skills to make your dreams come true.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Participate, then see what happens. Changing how you network or socialize will offer the mental stimulation you crave in your life. Consider what brings you joy, and expand your interests to include activities that contribute to health and happiness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Give your space a face-lift and focus on entertaining and taking pride in who you are and what you have to offer. Spend time with people who contribute and are interested in making a difference. Accommodate those in need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Learn your lessons and apply your accumulated information to deal with difficult people and situations. Leave nothing to chance or up to someone who uses anger or force to control outcomes. Believe in yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Update your skills. Keep in sync with what's current. Respond quickly and let your actions speak for you. Don't hesitate to invest more time and money in yourself and your surroundings. A personal or financial gain is within reach.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGYCOURTESY 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A change of scenery will give you a unique perspective regarding what's possible. Be open to suggestions and exhaust your resources to ensure you get what you want. You don't need to overdo it to win; stick to basics and your budget.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Let observation guide you. Base decisions on facts and the support others offer. Pay attention to your health and physical needs. Strive to look and feel your best and provide an upbeat presentation once you set your sights on specific goals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get your documents in order. A change in how you do things will lead to an exciting proposal. Combine what matters to you with how you earn your living, and you'll find a path that makes you feel passionate and progressive.

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, driven and protective. You are persistent and charitable.

•: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ♦♦: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ♦♦♦: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ♦♦♦♦: Aim high; start new projects. ♦♦♦♦♦: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			3	5				9	
2									
8	6	4				1			
	1		4	7					
	5				1				
4	6				3				
1		7	5	2					
						2			
3		6	9				7		

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	3	2	8	1	6	5	7	4
1	5	6	9	4	7	2	3	8
8	7	4	3	5	2	9	1	6
5	1	3	2	7	8	6	4	9
4	2	7	5	6	9	1	8	3
6	8	9	4	3	1	7	2	5
7	4	1	6	8	5	3	9	2
3	9	5	7	2	4	8	6	1
2	6	8	1	9	3	4	5	7

TODAY'S PUZZLE BY CONCEPTIS PUZZLES

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LEMON CAKES

Solution: 12 letters

W	C	P	U	R	Y	S	T	A	N	G	Y	Y	E	M
H	H	T	S	E	Z	L	T	T	N	D	G	E	I	
I	O	I	L	R	Ⓐ	E	A	I	R	N	D	N	I	
S	C	L	P	Ⓐ	S	A	R	L	E	U	M	I	N	
K	O	A	I	P	T	L	S	O	F	R	G	Z	P	
W	L	Y	S	O	I	S	R	U	O	L	F	O	N	
A	A	E	O	F	E	N	Y	C	I	U	J	Y	N	
T	T	R	F	D	R	V	G	A	Y	N	G	U	K	
E	X	T	U	R	E	I	C	D	F	A	O	L	T	
O	E	D	A	E	R	B	D	L	R	H	F	E	I	
C	W	P	C	U	R	D	I	W	O	E	T	U	M	
I	S	I	T	E	F	L	A	V	R	A	R	L	R	
R	P	X	S	T	U	N	E	I	P	S	M	I	F	
E	I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M	R	E	T	T	U	
M	A	S	C	A	R	P	O	N	E	S	S	U	O	

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Birthday, Bread, Butter, Chocolate, Curd

McMahon, Grichuk tee off, Rockies end Cards' win streak at 7



DENVER
(A P) —
Ryan Mc-
Mahon

hit a 495-foot homer for the longest drive by a Colorado player at Coors Field, Randal Grichuk went 5 for 5 and the Rockies routed St. Louis 16-5 Tuesday night, ending the Cardinals' seven-game winning streak. "It felt really good," McMahon said. "After you hit it you don't have very much control over it, but it's pretty cool to hit it like that."

Cardinals starter Miles Mikolas, an All-Star this season, was tagged for 10 runs and 14 hits in just 2 2/3 innings.

C.J. Cron homered and doubled to drive in five runs and Grichuk also connected as Colorado piled up 22 hits. "It was exciting," Grichuk said. "Hitting's contagious and seeing your teammates come up with some big hits and good at-bats, string them together, especially at a time where we haven't been playing the best baseball, it was just fun to watch. I'm just happy for everyone."

McMahon's two-run homer in the seventh off T.J. McFarland stood out as the four—Grichuk was on deck when McMahon homered, giving him a front-row seat to view—and hear—his teammate's prodigious drive.

"I knew he got it well," Grichuk said. "I didn't know how far it was going to go, but it sounded amazing. Those are the sounds that baseball players live for, or offensive players I should say. That was impressive. He swings pretty I've loved his swing from the first time I saw it, even before I got here."

Mariners 1, Yankees 0, 13 innings

In Seattle, pinch hitter Luis Torrens lined a walk-off single with the bases loaded in the 13th inning as Seattle defeated New York.

The Yankees had runners thrown out on the bases in the 10th, 11th and 12th innings.

The game featured a showdown between right-handers Gerrit Cole and Luis Castillo. Cole went seven innings and allowed four hits. He didn't walk a batter and struck out eight. Castillo was making his T-Mobile Park debut after being acquired from Cincinnati before the trade deadline for three of the Mariners' top five prospects. In eight innings, he gave up three hits and walked two while striking out seven.

Diamondbacks 6, Pirates 4

In Phoenix, Tommy Henry tossed seven strong innings for his first major league



Mets 6, Reds 2

In New York, Carlos Carrasco pitched effectively into the seventh inning, Francisco Lindor hit a two-run homer and red-hot New York beat visiting Cincinnati.

Carrasco (13-4) won his fifth straight decision and moved into a tie for the National League lead in wins by becoming the fourth 13-game winner. He allowed two runs in the seventh -- and four of the seven hits he yielded came in that inning -- yet he earned a standing ovation from fans after allowing a single to Jonathan India on his final pitch. The veteran right-hander struck out nine and walked one.

Lindor hit his 20th homer—matching his total from last season—when he sent a 2-2 changeup from Cincinnati left-hander Mike Minor (1-9) into the left field seats in the third inning. Carrasco lost his shutout when Jake Fraley hammered a 2-0 changeup to the bridge in right-center field with one out in the seventh.

Orioles 6, Blue Jays 5

In Baltimore, Rougned Odor hit a go-ahead two-run home run in the bottom of the eighth inning and Baltimore defeated visiting Toronto.

Austin Hays led off the inning with a single against Yimi Garcia (1-4), and Odor followed with his 11th homer of the season.

Bo Bichette hit two home runs and had four RBIs for Toronto. Blue Jays right-hander Alek Manoah allowed three runs, eight hits and one walk with five strikeouts in five innings.

Astros 7, Rangers 5

In Houston, Aledmys Diaz drilled a grand slam with two outs in the fourth inning to spark a rally from a four-run deficit as Houston topped visiting Texas.

Diaz pulled the Astros even with his 10th home run and second grand slam this season, following consecutive two-out walks issued by Rangers left-hander Martin Perez (9-3).

Jose Altuve opened the fourth with a single and Yuli Gurriel followed with a walk, but Perez appeared to clear danger when he induced a double-play grounder off the bat of slugger Yordan Alvarez. But Perez, who retired the first nine batters he faced, failed to regain his footing. He walked Alex Bregman and Kyle Tucker before Diaz blasted an 0-1 changeup 432 feet to left-center field.

Braves 9, Red Sox 7, 11 innings

In Boston, Austin Riley had

a two-run single in the 11th inning to lift visiting Atlanta to a win against Boston in the opener of a two-game series.

Riley tallied three hits, including a two-run homer, and five RBIs, and Ronald Acuna Jr. had three hits and scored three runs for the Braves, who ended a season-high three-game losing streak. Braves starter Charlie Morton allowed five runs and six hits in six innings. Dylan Lee (3-0) pitched the 10th inning, and Tyler Matzek worked the 11th for his first save.

Christian Arroyo had two hits, including a two-run homer, and drove in three runs for Boston, which has lost five of six. Alex Verdugo had three hits and scored two runs, and Tommy Pham and Jarren Duran also homered.

Angels 5, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Shohei Ohtani showed no ill effects of a foot injury, ripping a home run while shutting out host Oakland over six innings in leading Los Angeles to a victory.

The right-handed pitcher allowed four hits and three walks over his six innings, striking out five. Taylor Ward also homered for the Angels, who won a second straight over Oakland on the road after dropping two of three to their California rival at home last week.

Oakland's lone run was the result of Chad Pinder's lead-off homer in the ninth, his 10th homer of the season. A's starter James Kaprielian (3-6) allowed four runs (three earned) and six hits over five innings. He struck out six and walked three.

Dodgers 10, Twins 3

In Los Angeles, Trea Turner drove in three runs and had a pair of doubles as Los Angeles extended its winning streak to a season-best nine games with a victory against visiting Minnesota.

Max Muncy hit a home run, while Julio Urias won his ninth consecutive decision as the Dodgers improved to 31-5 since June 29. Los Angeles also extended its winning streak to nine consecutive games over the Twins, going back to 2014.

Byron Buxton hit a home run for Minnesota, while starter Joe Ryan (8-5) gave up six runs (five earned) on nine hits over five innings. The loss dropped the Twins into a tie for first place in the American League Central with the Cleveland Guardians. It is the first time the Twins have not been in sole possession of first place in the division since June 24. Minnesota is 5-7 since July 26.

White Sox 3, Royals 2, game 2

In Kansas City, Eloy Jimenez had three hits and a walk as Chicago defeated host Kansas City to split a doubleheader.

The White Sox grabbed the lead in the third inning when Lenyn Sosa connected for his first major league home run. Yoan Moncada also homered. Davis Martin (2-3), the 27th man called up for the doubleheader for the White Sox, allowed one run on three hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Vinnie Pasquantino became the 13th Royal to hit home runs in both games of a doubleheader. Jonathan Heasley (1-7), the Royals' 27th man, allowed two runs on seven hits in 5 1/3 innings. He walked just one and struck out five. But he allowed two solo home runs.

Royals 4, White Sox 2, game 1

In Kansas City, Nick Pratto went 3-for-4 with a two-run home run as Kansas City defeated visiting Chicago in the first game of a doubleheader.

The home run was the second one of the homestand for Pratto. Vinnie Pasquantino also clubbed a two-run homer for Kansas City. Brady Singer (5-4) threw a solid 7 1/3 innings for the Royals. He allowed one run on five hits, striking out six and not walking a batter.

Josh Harrison put the White Sox on the board in the third. He took a 2-2 pitch and placed it in the first row of the seats in left field. The solo shot was his sixth homer of the year. Yoan Moncada's sacrifice fly in the ninth drove in the second Chicago run.

Guardians 5, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Shane Bieber pitched seven strong innings, Oscar Gonzalez had a two-

run double and Cleveland downed Detroit.

Bieber (7-6) gave up just four singles and a walk while striking out eight.

Amid Rosario supplied three hits, including two doubles, while scoring a run and driving in another as the Guardians won their third straight.

Phillies 4, Marlins 1

In Philadelphia, J.T. Realmuto hit a home run, double and drove in two runs, Jean Segura added a homer and single and Philadelphia defeated Miami.

Kyle Schwarber contributed two hits for the Phillies, who won their sixth in a row and moved a season-high 13 games above .500. Starter Zack Wheeler (11-5) gave up five hits and one run in six innings. Wheeler, who threw a season-high 109 pitches, struck out eight and walked three.

JJ Bleday homered for Miami, which managed just five hits and has lost eight of its last 10 games.

Brewers 5, Rays 3

In Milwaukee, Freddy Peralta pitched five strong innings and Kolten Wong doubled in two runs to help Milwaukee defeat visiting Tampa Bay.

Peralta (4-2) allowed two runs on two hits in five innings, striking out four and walking none in a 65-pitch outing. Matt Bush struck out two in the ninth inning for the Brewers' first save since they traded All-Star closer Josh Hader at the deadline.

Yandy Diaz hit a two-run homer in the third inning for the Rays. Christian Bethancourt reached on an infield single and was sacrificed to second by Taylor Walls before Diaz sent a 2-0 pitch 421 feet to center for his sixth homer.

In Detroit, Austin Riley had

Goodell: NFL appeal of Watson suspension 'right thing to do'



BEREA, Ohio

(AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said he feels the league needed to keep pushing for a year-long suspension for Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson because of his “egregious” and “predatory behavior” toward women.

Speaking at the owners’ meetings Tuesday in Bloomington, Minnesota, Goodell addressed the league’s decision to appeal a six-game suspension given to Watson by Sue L. Robinson, a former federal judge appointed by the NFL and NFL Players Association as an independent league disciplinary officer.

Robinson found Watson violated the league’s conduct policy after he was accused by two dozen women of sexual assault or harassment while he played for Houston. Watson has settled 23 of the 24 lawsuits filed by the women, though he has denied any wrongdoing.

The league has been seeking an indefinite suspension and fine for Watson, and felt Robinson’s six-game ban wasn’t enough. Goodell cited the collective bargaining agreement for empowering the league to seek further discipline.

“Either party could certainly challenge and appeal that and that was something that we felt was our right to do as well as NFLPA,” Goodell said. “So we decided it was the right thing to do.”

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP)—The record \$4.65 billion sale of the Denver Broncos to Walmart heir Rob Walton and his daughter and son-in-law was unanimously approved Tuesday by NFL owners, the expected final step in the transfer from the family of the late Pat Bowlen.

The vote was taken at a league meeting at a hotel in Minnesota, where Walton, his daughter, Carrie Walton Penner, and her husband, Greg Penner, were introduced by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. With an estimated worth of \$60 billion, the 77-year-old Walton — the eldest son of Walmart founder Sam Walton — becomes the wealthiest owner in the league. Rob Walton served as chairman of the retail giant from 1992-2015.

“I’m appreciative to see such a good group coming to own the Broncos. I think it speaks to the direction that the organization is going in,” right tackle Calvin Anderson said after practice in Englewood, Colorado. “Just like the Avs winning the Stanley Cup, it’s a challenge to us to rise to the occasion.”

Watson’s fate now rests with Peter C. Harvey, a former New Jersey attorney general handpicked by Goodell to handle the appeal. Harvey has previously worked as an arbiter in league cases.

Goodell said the league is pushing for a full-year penalty for Watson because of the evidence against the 26-year-old, who was accused of being sexually inappropriate with the women during massage therapy sessions while with the Texans in 2020 and 2021.

In her 16-page ruling, Robinson concluded Watson violated the league’s personal conduct policy with his behavior, using both “egregious” and “predatory” to describe his actions.

Goodell was asked why the league is seeking a harsher punishment.

“Because we’ve seen the evidence,” he said. “She (Robinson) was very clear about the evidence. She reinforced the evidence, that there was multiple violations here and they were egregious, and that it was predatory behavior.

“Those were always things we felt was really important for us to address and in a way that’s responsible.”

Goodell doesn’t have a sense of when Harvey will issue a decision. There’s no specific deadline for Harvey, but the appeal policy requires that it be “expedited.”

There also remains the possibility the sides could reach a settlement.



Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson takes part in drills during the NFL football team’s training camp, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022, in Berea, Ohio.

While attending the meetings in Minnesota, Cleveland owner Jimmy Haslam had little to say about the ongoing appeal.

“We’ll respect and honor the process,” he told reporters.

Meanwhile, Watson’s playing status for the Browns’ exhibition opener is unknown.

Browns coach Kevin Stefanski didn’t reveal whether Watson will play in Friday’s game in Jacksonville. Stefanski said the team has a plan but he won’t make it public until he tells his players.

“We have a framework for how we are going to handle this preseason,” he said. “As you know, you always reserve the right to change your mind based on how practice goes and those type of things, but we are pretty confident in the plan we have.”

Stefanski said Watson will make the trip to Florida. The three-time Pro Bowler has not played since 2020. He sat out last season after demanding a trade and before the allegations came to light.

Cleveland’s plan has been to start Jacoby Brissett while Watson serves his suspension. But now that it’s possible that it will encompass most, if not all of the season, there’s a chance the team could look outside for another quarterback.

Josh Rosen and Josh Dobbs are also on Cleveland’s roster and are expected to get the bulk of the playing time during the exhibition season.

ties, the communities they’re in, that’s a big deal.”

Joe Ellis, who served as team president for the past 11 seasons, has stepped down from his role and will serve as an advisor in 2022 at the request of the new owners.

“Pat Bowlen created an incredible legacy at the Broncos, and he leaves big shoes to fill,” Walton Penner said. “We look forward to continuing to build on that legacy.”

The arrival of the Walton-Penner group gave the NFL a moment to attempt to deflect some attention off two ownership-related black eyes that developed for the league earlier this year — the ongoing workplace culture investigations surrounding Washington Commanders owner Daniel Snyder and the tampering and tanking case around Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross.

“The integrity of the game’s critically important. I think the findings were very clear on the tampering charges,” Goodell said. “While tanking clearly did not happen here, I think we all have to understand that our words, and our actions have implications for being interpreted.”

Broncos sale to Walton group unanimously OK’d by NFL owners

Walton said, the family would have considered buying.

Bowlen wanted one of his children to take over the team and Brittany Bowlen, now 32, was the trustees’ selected successor. Not all of her siblings supported that choice, so the club was put up for sale. Brittany Bowlen stepped down as the team’s vice president of strategy after the Walton-Penner group was awarded the franchise with their winning bid.

Only one other NFL club has been sold in the past 10 years: the Carolina Panthers from Jerry Richardson to David Tepper for what was then a record \$2.2 billion.

The Broncos are now the first team since the 2008 Miami Dolphins to change primary owners, head coaches and starting quarterbacks in one offseason.

“When it comes to the ownership, I am so excited to get to know them, to meet them, and move forward. I know there has been an amazing history here, and you can learn a lot from history — the good, the bad, and everything,” new

coach Nathaniel Hackett said. “Right now, it is just about putting ourselves in a position to win some football games.”

The Broncos also have a general manager, George Paton, with one year under his belt.

“George came up with an outstanding coach, I think, in Nathaniel. They’ll have to perform, but we think we’ve got the pieces to really get together and have a great season,” Walton said.

The first major decision under the Walton group’s watch will be a contract extension for new quarterback Russell Wilson, who arrived via trade with the Seattle Seahawks in March.

The new deal for the nine-time Pro Bowl pick is expected to be in the range of \$260 million and five years.

Another pressing issue: Empower Field at Mile High. The stadium is only 21 years old, but it lacks the frills and revenue-producing features of new venues such as SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles and Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, the homes of the AFC West rival Chargers and Raid-

ers, respectively.

“It would be premature to start talking about a new stadium. I’ll say that Empower Field at Mile High is a world-class facility,” Penner said,

praising the club’s relationship with the public agency that oversees the venue and noting the lease that doesn’t expire until 2031. “We’ll evaluate all of our options and really dig in and try to understand the situation before making a decision.”

Bowlen bought the Broncos in 1984 for \$78 million.

“It’s a credit to owners that aren’t alive, owners that are alive, and the Commissioner, that we’re able to generate a price increase and have that sort of equity value in what we do,” Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay said. “It’s taken a lot of hard work and a lot of risk.”

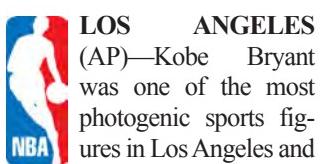
The wife of Los Angeles Rams owner Stan Kroenke, Ann Walton Kroenke, is Rob Walton’s cousin.

“They’ll do a wonderful job,” Kroenke said. “Having people that you know you can count on who are forward-looking and are progressive and want to invest in the facil-

Kobe Bryant crash photos lawsuit to be heard by LA jury



Firefighters work the scene of a helicopter crash where former NBA basketball star Kobe Bryant died in Calabasas, Calif., Jan. 26, 2020.



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant was one of the most photogenic sports figures in Los Angeles and images of him seen by millions around the world — smiling in victory, grimacing in agony — keep his memory alive.

But some photos of him should never be seen, his widow says, and she's seeking unspecified millions in compensation for snapshots taken of the NBA star's corpse that were circulated after he was killed in a helicopter crash with their daughter and seven others in 2020.

Vanessa Bryant's invasion of

privacy trial against the Los Angeles County sheriff's and fire departments begins Wednesday in a U.S. District Court just over a mile from where Kobe Bryant played most of his career with the Lakers.

Vanessa Bryant claims deputies did not take the photos for investigative purposes and shared them with firefighters who responded to the crash scene. The lawsuit said a deputy showed the photos to bar patrons and a firefighter showed them off-duty colleagues.

"Mrs. Bryant feels ill at the thought that sheriff's deputies, firefighters, and members of the public have gawked at gratuitous images of her deceased husband and child," according to the lawsuit. "She lives in fear

that she or her children will one day confront horrific images of their loved ones online."

Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna, and other parents and players were flying to a girls basketball tournament when their chartered helicopter crashed in the Calabasas hills west of Los Angeles in fog. Federal safety officials blamed pilot error for the wreck.

Vanessa Bryant has also sued the helicopter charter company and the deceased pilot's estate.

The county has argued that Bryant has suffered emotional distress from the deaths, not the photos, which were ordered deleted by Sheriff Alex Villanueva. They said the photos have never been in the media, on the internet or otherwise

publicly disseminated and that the lawsuit is speculative about harm she may suffer.

A law prompted by the crash makes it a crime for first responders to take unauthorized photos of deceased people at the scene of an accident or crime.

The county already agreed to pay \$2.5 million to settle a similar case brought by two families whose relatives died in the Jan. 26, 2020, crash.

Vanessa Bryant did not settle her case, indicating she's seeking more.

The litigation has at times been ugly.

When the county sought a psychiatric evaluation of Bryant to determine if she suffered emotional distress because of

the photos, her lawyers criticized the "scorched-earth discovery tactics" to bully her and other family members of victims to abandon their lawsuits.

The county responded by saying they were sympathetic to Bryant's losses and dismissed her case as a "money grab."

Iman Shumpert arrested at Texas airport for pot possession

DALLAS (AP)—Former NBA player Iman Shumpert was arrested at the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport last weekend for allegedly trying to bring six ounces of cannabis through security.

The police report from the DFW Airport Department of Public Safety shows police were called to a TSA checkpoint at about 3:40 p.m. on Saturday, July 30 and told



Iman Shumpert arrives at the People's Choice Awards on Dec. 7, 2021, at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, Calif.

there was a "sizeable amount of marijuana" found.

The police report says Shumpert told officers that the bag contained marijuana and "asked if there was any way he could make his flight" to Los Angeles, where he was supposed to pick up his daughter. He has two daughters with entertainer Teyana Taylor.

Shumpert was told no, arrested for felony possession of marijuana and taken to the airport jail. The Tarrant County Criminal Courts system didn't have information about a court case.

The report says Shumpert also had a magazine with 14 rounds in his backpack but no gun was found. A contact for Shumpert, his agent or a lawyer was not immediately available.

Shumpert won an NBA championship with the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2016. He also played for the New York Knicks, Sacramento Kings, Houston Rockets and Brooklyn Nets. He was waived by the Nets in 2021.

Tribune Sports Scores

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	71	40	.640	
Toronto	60	50	.545	7 1/2
Tampa Bay	58	51	.532	12
Baltimore	58	52	.527	12 1/2
Boston	54	57	.486	17

Central Division

Cleveland	57	52	.523	
Minnesota	57	52	.523	
Chicago	56	54	.509	1 1/2
Kansas City	45	66	.405	13
Detroit	43	68	.387	15

West Division

Houston	71	40	.640	
Seattle	60	52	.536	11 1/2
Texas	48	61	.440	22
Los Angeles	48	63	.432	23
Oakland	41	70	.369	30

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	72	39	.649	
Atlanta	65	46	.586	7
Philadelphia	61	48	.560	10
Miami	49	60	.450	22
Washington	37	75	.330	35 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	60	49	.550	
Milwaukee	59	50	.541	1
Chicago	44	65	.404	16
Cincinnati	44	65	.404	16
Pittsburgh	44	66	.400	16 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	76	33	.697	
San Diego	62	51	.549	16
San Francisco	54	56	.491	22 1/2
Arizona	50	59	.459	26
Colorado	49	63	.438	28 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

next year and I hope I have a better time."

Keith Longuski said the Michelob Ultra Beer Mile 2022 was "a marvelous success" for an inaugural event.

"Well planned with outstanding sponsorship. Spectators received an array of stamina, gluttony, and laughter with a dash of inebriation. I can only hope that next year's event is bigger and better."

The physician's assistant,

who usually smokes the competition in local 5-kilometer races, said at the very least running the one mile was the easy part.

"I would have rather done two miles of running and half the beer. I contemplated dumping the last drink and taking the penalty lap, but I knew I wouldn't be able to look my fellow competitors in the eye with such a cowardly act," he said.

Marianas High School

cited to compete in his first ever POJC stint.

"I am happy to go to Fiji. I was happy when I heard of my wildcard entry and now feel I need to practice more," said Yu.

The 14-year-old Mt. Carmel School student already knows what to work on before his POJC debut.

"I'll try to make my serve in more and try to be aggressive."

Earlier, 15 CNMI bets made the cut in the 2022 POJC and they include boys 16 and under's Minsoo "David" Kwon, girls 16's Serin Chung and Savita Sikkel, boys 14's La Hunn Lam, Nason Wessel, Henry Choi, and Siwoo Lee, girls 14's Hoo Wang, Hannah Chae, and Anna Kwon, boys 12's Yutaka Kadokura,

Ian Chae, Ryan Choi, and Jihun Park, and girls 12's Lina Tsukagoshi.

Of the 15, Serin Chung and Lam went all the way to win the championships of their respective age groups.

The CNMI junior netters bound for Fiji will be coached by CNMI sports hall of famer and Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Federation president Jeff Race.

After an absence of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a total of 19 junior netters from the Northern Marianas saw action in the 2022 North Pacific Regional Championships.

They duked it out against 16 players from Guam, six players from the Federated States of Micronesia, and five players from Palau.

physical education teacher Leith Poole finished the four beers and four laps in 8:03 to top the event. The first to finish among the women, meanwhile, was former tennis prodigy Tammy Ackerman who came in at 9:01.

In all, 95 out of the expected 99 runners signed up for the

MISTER

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macy, Megabyte, 670 Rocksteady, and TBar," said Mister.

Alegre, who aside from organizing the event topped the women's division, said the Inaugural SBD Powerlifting Meet turned out better than expected.

"You can tell the competitors' love for the sport as they cheered each other on. Although they competed against each other it felt like they supported each other more. They all volunteered to get the event ready and I'm super grateful for that. The event concluded with spectators amazed with our strength as well as accomplished competitors hitting personal records," she said.

Eric Mafnas, who won the men's category, said he's pumped that the Inaugural SBD Powerlifting Meet met

all expectations. The SBD in the competition's name stands for squat, bench press, and deadlift.

"I'm excited that the powerlifting community is making its way here. I have nothing but love for the sport and I'm eager for more and more people to get involved with it," he said.

Mafnas, a 23-year-old student at Northern Marianas College, topped the men's division with a total of 385.06 points.

Alegre, National Academy Sports Medicine-certified personal trainer who works at Gold's Gym Saipan, topped the women's division after garnering 300.3 points.

The Inaugural SBD Powerlifting Meet was performed with a Rogue Standard Bar and Hampton Olympic Rubber Coated Plates. Under the rules, each lifter was granted three attempts in a standard round-robin flight arrangement.

IRIN

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to Hoo Wang that initially knocked her out of the POJC in Guam, Chung said she needs to play more consistently, especially during crucial stages of matches.

"In the match I lost in the super tiebreaker, I played really well in the first set but started making a lot of unforced errors and was very exhausted in the second set. I did not maintain the good play from the first set and did not play very well. I learned that I would have to build more stamina and train harder to be able to show my best performance in a match," she said.

Like Chung, Yu is also ex-



McMahon, Grichuk tee off, Rockies end Cards' win streak at 7
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Kobe Bryant crash photos lawsuit to be heard by LA jury

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Snyder: Mission is to keep people moving



Participants of the Michelob Ultra Beer Mile 2022 pose for a group photo after the inaugural event last Friday at the Saipan Country Club.

MARK RABAGO

Irin, June get wildcard entries to 2022 POJC



Chung



Yu

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Irin Chung and June Yu got their chance for redemption after being granted wildcard entries by the Oceania Tennis Federation to the 2022 Pacific Oceania Juniors Championships set for next month in Lautoka, Fiji.

Chung said she will take full advantage of her second chance to represent the Commonwealth in this year's POJC.

"I'm glad I got a wildcard to Fiji. I'll be able to meet and play many more good players," she said.

Reflecting on her loss

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By MARK RABAGO
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Run Saipan held the Michelob Ultra Beer Mile 2022 not because they suddenly became loyal acolytes of Bacchus, the Greek god of beer.

In fact, the non-profit's secretary/treasurer, Dr. Ron Snyder, didn't want any part of beer runs when he first heard of them a decade or so ago.

"So I was visiting my family in Buffalo, New York about 10 years ago and there was a

craft beer mile run in downtown Buffalo. None of my family would participate. I thought what is this garbage? But I kept it on the back of my mind for years until finally we (Run Saipan) put starting races together and I said 'how

about a beer mile?' just for variety," he said.

Despite some criticisms, the CNMI national athletics coach said the Michelob Ultra Beer Mile 2022 was a success in that they were able to lure people who don't normally show up in their regular events.

"It's great...Really our mission is to keep people moving so anything we could do to keep people moving is a plus. So whether it's the adrenalin junkies with the Dash & Splash or the it's somebody who loves to drink beer and we keep them mov-

ing through the beer mile, that is great. This is a win for us if we keep people moving that way," he said.

Snyder said even one of the CNMI's top runners was tested by the beer mile.

"A few puked today. There was our potential winner for today who puked coming in and had to do a penalty lap. I don't wanna mention names—Mike Manao. Obviously it's very difficult. It's not really the alcohol that gets you, it's the full stomach. So being able to run at a fast

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By MARK RABAGO
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Mister impressed with athletes of 1st powerlifting tilt

No less than Gold's Gym Saipan general manager Tyce Mister was impressed with how participants of the Inaugural SBD Powerlifting Meet last Sunday performed considering it's the very first of its kind on the island.

"Gold's Gym Saipan is very excited, honored, and proud to hold this inaugural powerlifting meet. Huge shout out to our event director, Jamila Alegre. Super impressive athletes. Several personal records were achieved. Safe and

friendly competition," he said.

The former Marianas High School teacher and head coach of the CNMI beach volleyball national team in the recent Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 also thanked everyone who made

the competition a success.

"I'm grateful for the volunteer judges and spotters. And special thank you to our sponsors sweetening the win: Hyatt Regency Saipan, Michelob Ultra, Qure Water, PHI Phar-

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Gold's Gym Saipan general manager Tyce Mister, second from right, poses with participants of the Inaugural SBD Powerlifting Meet held last Sunday.

JONATHAN IBAJAN